



SERVICE PROJECT SHEET Rotary Doctor Bank



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Project name:
Rotary Doctor Bank
(Registered Charity 1081630)

Project goal:
An avenue of service for volunteer clinicians, doctors and other health carers and workers, who are available on a short term basis to save lives and alleviate suffering in some of the poorest communities in the world, especially Africa. Whilst enabling clubs through fundraising and matching grants to undertake projects and activities to improve life in disadvantaged communities.

Rotary service type:
Encouraging Rotarians and non-Rotarians to serve others through practising their vocation and expanding Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe, promoting world peace and understanding, while clubs undertake fundraising through fellowship and action to alleviate world suffering.

Unique selling proposition:
Taking land based health care, requested by overseas medical organisations, to some of the most needy countries in the world. Helping to treat and alleviate suffering to local people and training health carers in remote areas, by clinically competent medical volunteers, who spend between one and three months on a modest subsistence allowance, after provision of assistance in planning and execution of their assignment. Run by volunteers, for volunteers, with over 90% of the money donated being used for assignments.

Description:
There are 4 avenues to the work of the Rotary Doctor Bank:-

- Collection of data - Maintaining a register of volunteer doctors and medical practitioners and keeping a register of hospitals requesting assistance.
- Matching the two registers and providing support in planning assignments, meeting the travel costs and providing a modest subsistence allowance.
- Education - by arranging for overseas health carers to study for a short period in the UK, as well as training by the volunteer doctors, to local health carers whilst on their assignments.
- Providing advice, assistance and networking with other organisations in worldwide health care and education projects.

Background:
In the western world there is approximately one doctor to 600 people in the general population whilst in developing and usually devastated countries of Africa and Asia, the proportion is approximately one doctor to 25,000 persons.

These developing countries are, by comparison and implication, extremely poor and lack the effective infrastructure of the western world, while still having to cope with natural disasters that affect lives.

Lack of clean uncontaminated water and hygienic sanitation, for example, causes many to suffer from parasitic infections and diseases that can be cured with the proper modern medical treatments. Ethnic and birth defects cause people to be outcasts from their society, these can be rectified with sometimes simple operations. The general hygiene and basic health care we take for granted is taught to local health care staff who pass their knowledge on, improving life and mortality amongst the population.

Volunteer Rotarian and non-Rotarian medical practitioners, practicing or retired, work in hospitals in developing countries on short term assignments. Their backgrounds are diverse, indicating the range of assistance available and required by GPs, surgeons, physicians, radiologists and other specialists.

Accommodation is provided locally, by the hospital, while the Rotary Doctor Bank will meet the cost of travel and subsistence expenses. A typical assignment costs approximately £1,800, which comes from money raised through various fund raising activities, including sponsorship and donations by Rotary Clubs in RIBI.

The Rotary Doctor Bank can arrange a period of study for health carers from developing countries to learn particular transferable skills for use upon their return home, as well as training to local staff during assignments.

Recent requests from other health organisations for advice and assistance in setting up healthcare education programmes have enabled Rotary Doctor Bank to assist, expanding Rotary's humanitarian reach. Rotary Doctor Bank has provided assistance to global health organisations, eg. The Red Cross and Medicins Sans Frontieres during recent natural disasters.

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or your District International Service Chairman.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability. The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of his or her ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties. Rotarians should refer to the detailed "RIBI Protection Policy" when planning events and activities.