



July 2007

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RFFA News

Chairman's Message

By Marion Bunch

Thanks to all of you who visited our booth at the Salt Lake City convention! This is RFFA's year for gaining wonderful publicity, awards and recognition.

First, the **Coca Cola Africa Foundation** named the **ANCHOR** partnership (which RFFA developed two years ago) as their "Flagship Partner in Africa" for Orphans and Vulnerable Children work.

Again, the ANCHOR partnership (RFFA, HOPE worldwide, Coca Cola and Emory University) was asked to present their "**Best Practice Model on Public/Private Partnerships**" at a conference for HIV/AIDS technical non-government organizations and government funding organizations in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2007 (*See related article on page 3*).

The **London Financial Times** honored both Rotary International and RFFA by ranking Rotary number five in the world of NGOs (non-government organizations) because of their corporate partnerships. They cited RFFA as being one of RI's top corporate partnership programs (next to the Polio partnership).

Finally, our esteemed Past RI President, **Bill Boyd**, actually mentioned RFFA at length in his closing remarks at the SLC convention. Here's the fun part: you can see a video of this part of his speech on RFFA's website. Go to <http://www.rffa.org> and click on "What's New". (The direct link to the video page is: <http://www.rffa.org/video01>). This is fun to do! Go see it, it takes 3 minutes. All of us from the RFFA board who

were sitting in the audience felt pretty special to be mentioned amongst the thousands sitting in the audience. We are humbled because we realize how many Rotarians are doing great work in the world of Rotary. Our sincere thanks to President Bill for believing in us. Thanks to RFFA's awesome webmaster and graphic design artist, John Paul, (Past President of Rotary club of Nevada City, CA) for making this video and sharing it with all of us.

Minutes of RFFA's Annual Meeting are included in the following pages. As you will see, we are building a great team at RFFA. Past District Governor Mark Doyle from Pretoria, South Africa was elected Vice Chair of RFFA. Mark's in-depth Rotary experience and his extensive network globally in Rotary will clearly make a difference in our future.

We also elected Anne Glenn, Past President of the Dunwoody Rotary Club in Georgia for her strategic planning and marketing expertise.

Finally we welcome Sally Platt, Past President of the Marietta Metro Club in Georgia, who has accepted the role of RFFA's Project Coordinator. For those of you interested in doing a matching grant in the HIV/AIDS area, contact Sally through our website (or at seplatt@cs.com) because she can actively help you connect with the right club.

We are like Rotary in that **we need your support and ask you to encourage your friends to join Rotarians for Fighting AIDS.**

New members and new ideas are the lifeblood of our organization. Please direct your fellow Rotarians to our website, where they can join online.

(Continued on page 2.)

Are you ready to help some of the 17 MILLION ORPHANS IN AFRICA?

You can do so through our ORPHAN RESCUE program. Click the button on the home page called Orphan Rescue and learn more about how you can help get these kids back into school so they have some chance to change their lives! This program can be a wonderful fundraiser and we ask you to consider it.

What an awesome experience this continues to be for me as your Chair of RFFA. Being involved in this work through Rotary has changed my life – in all ways, especially on how I spend my time, even my values and politics. It has broadened and enriched my life through the many friends I have met through this work.

There is no organization in the world more capable of helping eliminate HIV/AIDS than Rotary International because of our human resources and the work we do at the community level through our clubs and districts.

AIDS requires a community based response like no other disease, so it is a natural fit for Rotarians to work on this issue and for RFFA to help you accomplish that work.

I sincerely thank you for joining us and helping us fight the battle against HIV/AIDS.

Yours in Rotary Service,
Marion Bunch
Chair
Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc.



RI President Wilf Wilkinson (left) and RI Director John Germ (right) greet Marion Bunch in Salt Lake City.

London Financial Times Report Ranks Rotary #5

The London Financial Times has published a report that ranks Rotary International as number five for corporate partnerships. Published in July 2007 and entitled "Business Guide to Partnering with NGOs and the UN," the report was the result of an evaluation by the United Nations Global Compact, in cooperation with Dahlberg Global Development Advisors

Criteria for the evaluation included accountability, adaptability, communication and execution. Out of a possible score of 20 points, Rotary scored an impressive 17.8.

RFFA Receives Mention

The UN/Dahlberg report also included prominent mention of RFFA, stating:

AIDS | Africa: Since the 2003 formation of the Rotary Action Group Rotarians For Fighting AIDS (RFFA), the group has garnered support from three collaborator organizations, including Coca-Cola's operations in Africa and the company's Africa Foundation. Founder Marion Bunch of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody, Georgia initiated this groundbreaking collaboration to honor the son she lost to AIDS. Bunch created RFFA to unite Rotary club members interested in working on an AIDS project with Hope Worldwide, a global charity with expertise in working with AIDS victims. Hope Worldwide's African operations carry out relief on the ground and train Rotary club volunteers to assist their efforts. The Emory University School of Nursing then monitors and evaluates the results. After Bunch obtained a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation agreed to provide \$50,000 to get the project off the ground, and the company's Africa division continued to support the project with its marketing expertise and connections. The funds helped get Rotary club members to Africa for strategic-planning sessions, operations discussions, and training.

Annual PEPFAR Implementers Meeting

*By Dr. Mark Ottenweller
Director, HOPE Worldwide*

The Annual PEPFAR HIV Implementer's Meeting on "Scaling Up Through Partnerships" in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2007 was a great success for HOPE worldwide and the ANCHOR partners. Dr. Marc Aguirre and Dr. Mark Ottenweller of HOPE worldwide (HWW) attended the conference with over 1500 delegates from the US and sites across Africa.

Leaders of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC), the Global AIDS Program of Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Global Fund, the World Health Organization, and the United States

Agency for International Development (USAID) also attended the meeting.

HWW was able to present the ANCHOR program, enhance its US government relations, improve its model for community programs in Africa, and expand its donors and partnerships. Meetings and discussions were held with the US country missions where the existing ANCHOR programs have been established and where new sites have been proposed.

Dr. Marc Aguirre presented the ANCHOR Partnership at the session on "Public Private Partnerships: From Deal to Delivery."

(Continued on page 3.)

Dr. Mark Ottenweller moderated a session on "Strengthening Communities' Role in Protecting and Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children." There were several questions about how the partnership was formed and what expertise the corporate partners brought to the programs for orphans.

Dr. Aguirre also joined the Technical Working Group for Orphans of the USG for several key technical and strategic sessions. For example, the family approach for reaching Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) presented by World Vision was very dynamic, high impact, and easily adaptable to the HWW context. Key monitoring and evaluation issues were also discussed.

Dr Martha Rogers from the Emory School of Public Health, an ANCHOR partner, also attended the conference and many of the sessions on orphans. Community mobilization models, public-private partnerships, organizational capacity development, volunteerism, community ownership, and prevention for OVC were some of the key topics that were discussed.

These meetings and discussions will be very beneficial to our program development.

The US government relations with the ANCHOR partners and HWW were greatly improved through meetings and discussions with Dr. Mark Dybul, the Director of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, and Dr. Tom Kenyon, the Assistant Coordinator of OGAC.

As well, we met with Michelle Moloney-Kitts and Beverly Nyberg, the Senior OVC Advisors to OGAC and Ken Yamashita, the Senior OVC Advisor to USAID.

The HWW team also met with Dr. Kevin DeKock, the Senior HIV/AIDS Advisor to the World Health

Organization. Dr. DeKock assisted the establishment of the Centre D' Assistance Socio-Medicale of HWW in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in 1990.

Discussions also took place with senior staff of with World Vision, UNICEF, Partners in Health, and USAID delegates from Rwanda, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa. As well, meetings were held with Government officials from South Africa and the Ivory Coast

The Public Private Partnership Initiative of OGAC and USAID introduced HWW and its partners to the *Phones for Health* Consortium of GSM, Motorola, Accenture, and Voxiva which has set up a communication network for monitoring and tracking ARVs in Rwanda.

The *Phones for Health* Consortium expressed interest in developing a tracking and monitoring system for orphans across Africa. The need for systems to track and monitor orphans is desperate and this is an incredible opportunity for program development.

USAID and the Global Fund also have mechanisms to fund organizational capacity building, which HWW has already launched in Africa through funding from the Swedish International Development Agency, and this program could be easily expanded.

In addition, HWW met with Shell Oil in Nairobi during our return trip to South Africa and worked on a proposal for Centers of Hope in Africa.

Clearly, the PEPFAR Partners' Meeting was a huge success and greatly assisted ANCHOR in its efforts to scale up support for orphans and families affected by AIDS across Africa. Congratulations to Dr. Marc Aguirre and his team for their tireless dedication and their outstanding work with orphans,

their families, and their communities.

Many thanks to Marion Bunch and Mark Doyle from RFFA, Dr. Martha Rodgers from the Emory School of Public Health, and William Asiko, Sheree Shereni and Angie Ho from the Coca Cola Africa Foundation for their assistance to the programs and their efforts for the orphans and children affected by AIDS.

We hope that the ANCHOR Partnership continues to extend its reach, improve its impact, and expand its partnerships to help more children devastated by AIDS in Africa.

* * *

**ShelterBox
Intervenes to Assist
AIDS Orphans**

*By Michael Siggs,
Rotary Club of Colchester (D-1240)*

ShelterBox, Inc. has donated 140 shelter boxes with equipment for 140 families to be deployed by NERCHA in Swaziland for use as emergency housing in situations where vulnerable children or older people are struck by storms or fires or even just the collapse of the house due to the need for maintenance work that they are unable to do.

Also included in the 40-foot container being sent to arrive at the end of August are 2,440 blankets, 1,000 groundsheets, 208 25 litre water containers, 10 "Classrooms in a box" (personal equipment for 500 children and 10 teachers), 504 children's school packs and 100's of toys, footballs and other children's play equipment!

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Rotarians for Fighting AIDS, Inc.

Annual General Meeting

June 20, 2007

Notice having been circulated, the Fourth Annual meeting of the Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc. (RFFA) was held at the convention center in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 2 p.m. In attendance were approximately 50 Rotarians from all over the world as well as the following RFFA Board members:

- Marion Bunch, Chair (USA D6900)
- Dude Angius (USA D5170)
- Mark Doyle (South Africa D9250)
- Anne Glenn (USA D6900)
- John Paul (USA D5190)
- Tony Serrano (South Africa D9300)

Apologies were received from Board members not present: Barry Smith, Cathie Brumfield, Patrick Chisanga, Jennifer Jenkins, Bill Mackay, Deborah Schultz, and Rajiv Tandon.

Also present were RFFA Country Representative for the U.K., Reg Ling, and RFFA/ANCHOR Representative for Lagos, Nigeria, Olu Olowu.

Chairperson Marion opened the meeting, welcoming everyone, and made a presentation that incorporated the information below.

Marion presented a brief global overview of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with a particular focus on the plight of the AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Africa. UNAIDS and UNICEF are projecting that by 2010, there will be 25 million orphans on the continent of Africa.

Marion reviewed RFFA’s response to the orphan issue by informing the audience about the first Signature Project of RFFA, launched two years

ago, called ANCHOR (Africa Network For Children Orphaned and at Risk). The partners involved in this project are RFFA, HOPE worldwide, Coca Cola Africa Foundation (CCAF) and Emory University School of Public Health.

Together this partnership obtained a \$8.1 million grant from USAID, a \$1.2 million grant from CCAF, and \$285,000 from CIDA and the Canadian Rotarians. This program helps children in the countries of South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria and Cote d’Ivoire.

ANCHOR is in its second year of funding and to date this program has provided care and support for a minimum of 26,000 orphans. Marion has been informed by USAID’s Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) management that ANCHOR is the “Poster Child” of the more than 50 organizations to whom they provided OVC grants.

CCAF have named the ANCHOR program their “Flagship” orphan project for the continent of Africa.

Marion called upon Olu Olowu, RFFA/ANCHOR Rep to describe the great work being done by Rotarians in Nigeria to support ANCHOR.

Marion discussed the mission and the focus of RFFA and informed the group that membership was currently about 900 members and increasing rapidly. She asked everyone present to join RFFA if they hadn’t already done so and encourage others to join. She also invited them to get involved in RFFA’s Orphan Rescue program and the Kidz Club program.

The Orphan Rescue program provides nutritional support and schooling for one year for one child for a donation of \$450 US. The Kidz Club program provides group counseling, nutrition and psycho-social support to orphans who can be annually funded by a club or district for \$3,000 US.

In addition to increasing membership, Marion invited those present to become or nominate a Country Chair for RFFA for those districts in Africa which, as yet, were not covered. She also said that RFFA needed grant writers that would help RFFA identify funding entities (either individual or corporate), specifically dedicated to helping orphans especially in Africa but also elsewhere in the world.

Marion announced that the Vice Chair of RFFA (Eric Henderson of South Africa D9300) had resigned, and this position needed to be filled.

Nominations for this post were opened and RFFA Board member Dude Angius nominated Mark Doyle (D-9250), who has an outstanding record of service to Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. The nomination was seconded by RFFA Board member, Tony Serrano and approved unanimously.

In addition, Marion welcomed Sally Platt, a D6900 USA Rotarian, who will be RFFA’s Global Project Coordinator, assisting clubs and districts with matching grant opportunities supporting HIV/AIDS projects in Rotary. Sally has an outstanding record of service with and as a consultant to Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

Mark Doyle addressed the audience on the assistance that RFFA wants to provide in creating linkages throughout the Rotary world about all ongoing AIDS projects. Creating a collaborative effort amongst Rotarians will ensure better results.

Following a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marion Bunch, Chair
Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc.*

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Upcoming HIV/AIDS Events

18-23 August 2007
Colombo, Sri Lanka
8th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific

For more information go to <http://www.icaap8.lk>

28-31 August 2007
Kampala Makerere University
Kampala, Uganda
2nd Annual Workshop on AIDS, TB & Malaria

For more information go to <http://www.yhouganda.org>.

26-27 September 2007
University of Pretoria
Conference Center, South Africa
Imagined Futures II

For more information go to <http://www.csa.za.org>.

30 Nov. – 2 Dec. 2007
Oakland, CA, USA
First International Summit on HIV/AIDS and Zimbabwe

For more information go to <http://www.zimaidssummit.org>

**** 1 December 2007 ****
World AIDS Day
Start planning NOW to arrange for a speaker to present a special program to your club about HIV/AIDS.

* * *

Meet Our New RFFA Vice Chair Mark Doyle

By Sally Platt

Marcus Patrick (“Mark”) Doyle considers himself to be an “ordinary Rotarian.”

But his accomplishments paint quite a different picture. With 38 years’ membership in service organizations, he is anything but “ordinary.”

After a career in the BSA Police (Rhodesia/Zimbabwe), in which Mark served almost exclusively in the Criminal Investigation division, he entered the security industry. Today he still practices on a South Africa, African and international basis as an independent consultant.

Mark’s Rotary career began in 1978 when he became a charter member of the Rotary Club of Belmont in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. In 1982 he joined the Rotary Club of Pretoria, South Africa, and served as its President in 1986-87. He then joined the Rotary Club of Pretoria West in 1999 and presided over that club in 2002-03.

In the meantime, Mark was a GSE Team Leader to Alaska and the Yukon Territory (D-5010) in 1990 and served as District Governor in 1996-97.

Since then, Mark has served his District and Zone in a variety of ways, including:

- Regional Rotary Foundation Co-Coordinator (1998-2000)
- D-9250 representative to the Council on Legislation of 2001
- Numerous District 9250 posts, including District Rotary Foundation Chairman 1992-95 and 2003.
- Zone Coordinator for TRF Alumni 1994-96, Membership 2001-03, and Health and Hunger 2000-2006.
- RI President’s Representative to Nigeria, Zambia and South Africa.

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Rotarians for Fighting AIDS, Inc.

A Rotarian Action Group

Board of Directors

Marion Bunch, Chair
District 6900, USA

PDG Mark Doyle, Vice Chair
District 9250, South Africa

PDG Barry Smith,
Executive Secretary
District 6900, USA

Cathie Brumfield, Treasurer
District 6900, USA

Dude Angius
District 5170, USA

PDG Patrick Chisanga
District 9210, Zambia

Anne Glenn
District 6900, USA

Jennifer Jenkins
District 6900, USA

PDG Bill Mackay
District 7070, Canada

John Paul
District 5190, USA

Deborah Schultz
District 6670, USA

Anthony Serrano
Past RI Director
District 9300, South Africa

Rajiv Tandon, M.D.
District 3070, India

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- Chairman, TRF low-income country scholarship selection committee 2000-2006
- Executive member of the Governor’s Council of Southern and Eastern Africa 1995-2005 (Chairman in 1999-2001).

And there’s still more!

As if all that weren’t enough, Mark also is a three-time Rotary Volunteer, conducting forensic 3-H and Matching Grants audits to two districts in India and one in the Philippines (with Past RI President Bill Boyd).

In addition, Mark has visited and spoken at conferences, institutes and Foundation seminars in 17 African countries and 7 other countries worldwide.



In his spare time, Mark has attended four RI conventions and 24 conferences of D-9250.

Awards and Recognition

For his efforts on behalf of Rotary, Mark has received the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award, as well as the D-9250 Service Above Self certificate.

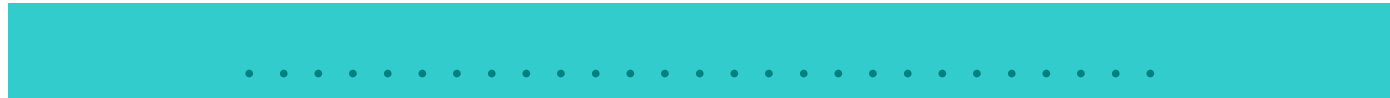
As well, Mark is a six-time Paul Harris Fellow and a lifetime member – and now Vice Chairman - of RFFA.

Best of all, he’s married to his best friend and fellow Rotarian Lyn, who accompanies him whenever possible on his Rotary travels.

But still - just an ordinary Rotarian

An “ordinary Rotarian?” Well, not exactly. On the other hand, with all these accomplishments to his name, he can call himself anything he wishes. We call ourselves lucky to have him as our new RFFA Vice Chairman.

(Photo center: Lyn and Mark Doyle with RFFA Grants Director Sally Platt at the Salt Lake City convention.)



Questions and Answers about Project Match

Q: What is Project Match?

A: The goal of RFFA Project Match is to assist clubs in combining their efforts and resources in order to undertake successful Matching Grants (MG) projects that address the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

Q: How does it work?

A: (1) If you’re looking for project partners, register your project in the RFFA website project database at <http://www.rffa.org/match>.

(2) To find a project for your club, check out the Project listings at <http://www.rffa.org/match>.

(3) For help with your Matching Grant

application, e-mail the RFFA Grants Director at grants@rffa.org for review and suggestions.

(4) Use the Discussion area on the RFFA website to talk about your project.

Q: Who can participate?

A: Any Rotary club or district that wishes to be involved with a project concerning HIV/AIDS.

Q: What’s the cost?

A: Projects are available in a variety of sizes. As a project partner, no individual club is expected to fund the cost of an entire project, unless you wish to do so. Whatever your club can contribute will be welcome!

Q: Where are projects located?

A: Several HIV/AIDS projects are

being planned in Africa (Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, etc.). Other current project locations are in the Ukraine, India, and Pakistan.

Q: What kinds of projects are available?

A: Project types include HIV/AIDS awareness and testing; equipping and furnishing orphanages, clinics and schools; establishing job training centers, and the like.

Q: How else can I help?

A: Spread the word! Increase awareness in your own club about the fight against HIV/AIDS. Encourage your club to become a partner in a listed project. Tell other clubs in your district about RFFA Project Match.

Through RFFA’s Project Match, we can bring hope to millions of children.

RFFA Reps and HOPE Country Managers Hold Seminar in Johannesburg



In March of this year, the African RRFA ANCHOR Representatives and their HOPE Worldwide counterparts met together in Johannesburg for a three-day seminar at the HOPE Worldwide Headquarters in Randpark Ridge.

After reviewing the activities of the past year and sharing the successes and problems encountered in the participating countries of Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa (Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg) and Nigeria, the majority of the seminar was spent in defining the goals for the following twelve months.

Current plans include extending operations on the ground to Mozambique – thanks to a meaningful intervention by Canadian Rotarians - and further projects in the Durban and Cape Town areas of South Africa. As a result, RFFA representatives from those areas were also present to absorb the atmosphere and learn from the experiences of their fellow RRFA ANCHOR Representatives.

The HOPE team pictured include: Olamide Akinfolayan, Program Manager Nigeria; Douglas Namooobe, Program Manager Zambia; Charles Mwenya, Program Coordinator Zambia; Selinah Masoane, Site Manager, Soweto, South Africa; Kedibone Malejane, Program Manager Botswana; Georganne Rayola, Program Manager Kenya; Dr. Marc Aguirre, Regional ANCHOR Program Manager; Kerry Wright, Regional ROSI Program Manager; Sara Roux, ROSI Curriculum Developer; Dr. Mark Ottenweller, ANCHOR Founding Member/Exco.

Two Program Managers were absent: Winnie Mokoti, Program Manager South Africa; and Soletchi Seya, Program Manager Cote d'Ivoire.

ShelterBox Intervenes to Assist AIDS Orphans

(Continued from page 3)

The target of Goal 6 of the UN Millennium Development Goals is to begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

Today there are over 15 million AIDS orphans, but by 2010, it is estimated that more than 20 million will have been orphaned.

Only when one sees the effect of this disaster on two of the smallest nations in the world, Swaziland & Lesotho, and on the people of those countries, can the true measure of misery and despair be recognised.

In these beautiful but miserably poor countries, 34% of adults are HIV positive. As well, 43% of pregnant mothers are HIV positive. The main cause of the spread of the disease is not sexual promiscuity or drug addiction, but severe economic poverty driven by an unemployment rate of 40-60%.

While the World's Presidents, Prime Ministers and politicians posture and procrastinate over trade agreements with the Third World, the reality is:

Mary is the eldest child of four siblings living in the countryside. Her father was a migrant worker who had gone to work in the mines of South Africa to send home money to keep his family. He had come home, but was taken ill, developed pneumonia and died.

There were no savings; mother had to make the best of subsistence farming of the garden. There was no money to pay the school fees or buy the compulsory uniforms for the children. They had to stay home, which meant the children did not get the free school lunch.

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Mary’s mother developed an illness, which quickly turned to pneumonia. The nearest supply of water was a stream two miles from their meagre home. Mary made the journey five times a day to bring back water for the children and to bathe her mother’s fevered brow.

No medical help was available; mother died. Mary blamed herself for her mother’s death. Four virtually naked children took to the road to walk to Mbabane, where they believed a distant relative lived.

Dr Clarissa works in a wonderful HIV/AIDS clinic on the edge of the City. Every day seventy mothers present their children for testing for HIV. Most are found to be infected and can receive life saving medicine.

“However,” comments the doctor, “if these children do not have access to clean water, a nutritious diet and warmth, the medication may all be in vain!” There is a pernicious system of children having to pay to attend school. If they cannot attend school because of the poverty of the family, they do not get a school meal that is essential for their well-being.

Mark and his sister walk five miles to school. He is sixteen, but still goes to primary school, as in some years his family have not been able to pay the fees.

Mark wants to complete his studies so as to hope to get some sort of job. He carries his shoes around his neck so not to wear them out and walks barefoot.

Mark loves his studies and the school sports. At six feet tall he is the ideal goalkeeper. The boys play and train using a plastic bag stuffed with more plastic bags.

The school does not have supply of

water; it could be provided if rainwater was harvested from the roof of the school, but the school has no money to spend on rainwater goods and a storage tank.

The schoolroom is dank and dilapidated. There is no money for repairs and redecoration. There is a computer lab with hardware computers and all the software Microsoft can give, but no one has trained the teachers or the students how to use machine or programmes, so they lie idle. There is no paper for printing; there is need for “joined-up writing” from generous donors and recipients.

The message of these anecdotes showing needs of the orphans and vulnerable children is clear. Whilst medication for HIV/AIDS can come from World Agencies, such as the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB & Malaria, the World Bank and UNAIDS, for those medicines to be effective the children need clean water, nutritious food, shelter, warmth and education.

These are all elements of Rotary International programmes. What is needed is the coordination of those programmes to concentrate a major effort to make a difference and create a programme for action that can be rolled out in other suffering countries.

What makes “joined-up” writing possible in countries like Swaziland & Lesotho is the presence of Rotary Clubs there. “Hands-on Rotary” is made possible by partnerships between clubs and districts. We all worry that donors’ gifts and goodwill will be frittered away, but with friends on the spot the risks are greatly reduced. Individuals can visit and check probity in-country and from abroad.

Why should we help in Swaziland and Lesotho? Not only because the need is great, but because governments in both countries have

declared war on the scourge and are cooperating with all agencies to bring about a reversal in the advance of the disease.

The Government agency established in Swaziland is NERCHA. The CEO of NERCHA is Derek von Wissell; his deputy is a Rotarian, President this year of his Club. One of the team, another Rotarian led a GSE team to America.

At this year’s Salt Lake City Convention, William Gates Sr. extolled us to “think big.” It does not come much bigger than this. Networking at the Convention led to talks with “ShelterBox,” one of Rotary’s most successful Charities. That Charity was moved to hear of the plight of the orphans of Swaziland.

Rotary as a civic leader can polarise its power to help the weakest and the most needy in the world. Other projects to be promoted include Computer Literacy Awards, Donate a Football (“Kick AIDS out of Africa”), Wateraid and Food Tunnels.

Where in the World is Swaziland?



Swaziland is a land-locked country embedded between South Africa on the west, north and south and Mozambique on the east. With an area of only 6,074 square miles, it is one of the smallest countries in the world. There are 5 Rotary clubs in Swaziland.