



DISTRICT CLUB AWARDS SUBMISSION FORM AVENUES OF SERVICE AWARDS

CLUB NAME: **Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club**

AVENUE OF SERVICE: **International**

SUBMITTER: **Steve Bender**

SERVICE PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Describe the project and the District Grant, community, international or youth service it meets):

We took a group of Rotarians to India to provide Polio Vaccinations, Dental Services, Reading Glasses, and provided funds for girl's bathrooms and refrigerators to store vaccinations and computers for their school.

DESCRIBE HOW THE CLUB USED MARKETING AND PUBLICITY TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF

ROTARY: **We produced the attached posters, posted on FB as well as in the Newport Beach Independent newspaper. We had a press conference in India and invited all of the local TV/Radio Stations and local dignitaries to help promote our Clinics and Rotary. We are following up with additional press releases in S Cal. and all participants are posting on FB.**

We have a FB contest for best photos and stories posted between now and July 1st 2017.

DESCRIBE THE OVERALL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT AND HOW IT HAD AN IMPACT ON AN INDIVIDUAL, A GROUP, THE COMMUNITY, THE CLUB OR OTHER PERSONS:

I think the following testimonies tell the story better than I could.

Testimonials from this project

Several Testimonials from our International Project to India

To Whom it may concern,

Myself and Glenn Baldwin decided to be involved in the NB Sunrise Rotary Mission to India. We had a fantastic adventure that in a lot of ways left of speechless. I know the memories of this event will last me the rest of my life. We helped with the dental clinic as much as we could since the two of us have no training, but we both were happy to pitch in to do whatever we could. When we were able to get away we went with Steve Bender to visit Rotary schools and medical clinics in nearby villages. We went to the medical clinics to help administer Polio immunizations. The images of the beautiful young children living in such poverty truly moved me. After a week of working with the dental clinic we were able to do sightseeing. Steve and his group took us to the Taj Mahal which was unimagined how it was built over 500 years ago. At night we stayed in luxury hotels and ate the best food available. I look forward to the next opportunity to help Steve and his group wherever in the world he takes us.

Roy Redman
President
Placentia Rotary Club

Dear Steve,

I couldn't stop sobbing at the ticket counter at India Gandhi airport. Need I say more?

But I will.

This trip to India was very emotional. Amazing. Enlightening. Exceptional. I want to do it again. I am trying to relive every moment.

Thank you, Steve, for including me as part of this journey. I am so grateful that Rotary Club, Newport Beach and Ayuda are playing such a vital role in the eradication of polio and in voluntary dental care in India.

Even though my role was trivial, I felt I contributed in a small way, be it toting a thousand toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, or assisting in pre-screening patients. But my most memorable role was placing the two drops of polio vaccine into a beautiful baby's mouth!

I adored the children with whom we interacted. We did so very little for them, and yet they were so grateful and happy and loving to us. I wish I could've done more.

I loved everything we did, the places we saw... from the Taj Mahal, Amber Fort to villages to an amazingly vast countryside. I enjoyed the people we encountered from hawkers to ordinary folk to Agra Rotarians.

And finally, the astounding members of our group: Steve, you inspire me. Your protégée, Travis Hunt, the volunteers especially Roy and Glenn, and last, but not least, that amazing group of Professors and students of USC. Remarkable people. I am so happy to have met you all and, once again, to have been part of this group. I will go with you again at a moment's notice. I only wish the trip was longer.

Thanks again, Steve

Here's to Thailand

Sincerely,
Sita Gyan-Gorski
Rotary Club of Mission Viejo

Hi Steve,

Thank you for the opportunity to help in some small way with the Dental Clinic and especially Polio Plus. I feel that it was really a life changing experience. Seeing all the people, children in particular that we were able to help during our four days at the hospital was truly eye opening. It was truly an awakening to see first-hand the huge disparity that exists in this day and age. The smiles I saw from everyone I encountered were heartwarming and the sincere appreciation with which our efforts were met struck me to my core. The journey and experiences will stay with me for my lifetime.

Again, thank you very much.

Best regards,

Glenn Baldwin
Placentia Rotary Club

Steve

I feel so incredibly proud and blessed to have been a part of one of the last volunteer teams to administer polio vaccinations in India. This mission afforded me the opportunity to see first-hand what it means to be a Rotarian. More than the beautiful memories of the Taj Mahal or any of the other historical sites, the ones that will last me a lifetime will be the days we visited the villages to provide polio vaccinations and seeing the kids surround our car when we left, smiling, blowing kisses and waving goodbye. It will be the days we visited the Rotary sponsored schools to hand out toothbrushes and toothpaste to the beautiful smiling faces and teach the school children the importance of good dental hygiene. It will be the day we saw firsthand the school whose newly built girls' block (bathroom) that was the catalyst for raising the girls' attendance rate as well keeping girls from dropping out of school completely when they reached puberty. It will be the days we all received a personalized hand written card from a student and where we met the girls whose lives were changed by a mere donation of \$450/year providing them tuition to go to school, uniforms & books. No, my memories will not be of the impressive archways and detail of the City Palace, while all very beautiful, it will be of all the faces of the people we touched. It will be the people we handed reading glasses to in front of the City Palace, knowing that for many, it was the first time they were able to see clearly again in years. These memories, for me, are what is beautiful and what will remain.

Caroline Leedom
Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club

Mr. Steven Bender

This year I traveled with Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club to India. We were invited by the Agra Rotary to help with the underserved people of Agra with their dental needs. It was a great clinic and so many people in need of dental care and oral hygiene instructions. I am a pediatric dentist so most the kids were attended by me. I can't tell you how rewarding it is to treat these kids and their parents and make them aware of dental care. It is so exciting to get a patient out of pain and see them smile. I had a case where a 21-year-old female had broken front teeth and had not smiled in years. I gave her a new smile and for the first time in years, she smiled hugging me. How precious is that? I will always go on these trips helping the underserved. I think we all have to get out of our safe zone and give a helping hand. I am honored to be considered for membership in your club.

Dr. Haleh Shadeey

From: Karen Buckler- A Rotarian from Mill Valley Rotary Club near San Francisco. She heard about our mission form a speech Steve Bender made at Palo Alto "Stanford" Rotary Club for California Inclusive Sailing.

It was just a few weeks ago that an announcement was made at my Mill Valley Rotary meeting that Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club needed another lay person to assist with their upcoming dental camp in Agra, India. I had been to India twice before, once with a Rotaplast mission, accompanying surgeons.

So I applied, was accepted and found myself accompanying about three dozen NB Rotaract dental students along with dentists and hygienists and a few hangers-on like me who assist where we can. Steve Bender, who managed this mission has boundless enthusiasm and energy.

The working conditions had to be seen in person, plastic chairs lined up to serve as dental chairs, equipment everywhere. Every single student diligently working on one patient after another all day. I found myself working in the sterilizer room, where the challenge was to figure out the minute differences in dental tools I was completely unfamiliar with.

Was there a downside? Well, the excruciating long flights to get there and back had to be endured, but the mission itself was pure bliss. I have made good friends I hope to see again on another mission. Next year it will be Thailand and I'm looking forward to it.

Karen Buckler
Mill Valley Rotary Club



From: Steve Bender [mailto:steve@stevebender.net]
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Sachin Wadhwa; rahul@agratajmahalrotary.org
Subject: Need info ASAP

Can you guys provide me with information for my International Report to our District Governor (Ray Sanford)

1. Please List the name of the three locations we visited to administer Polio Vaccinations:

District Hospital Barauli Ahir Tehsil, Agra District
Shyamo Village
Gutila Village

2. The location of the school that we funded the girls bathroom, computer and provide the services for the girls?

(4 Scholarships)

Vishwa Bharti Rotary School , Shamsabad Village

Please provide us with a letter of Recommendation from the Rotary Club of Agra:

Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club led by President, Steve Bender, Doc in a Box, Steve's Vision, and the Newport Beach Rotaract Students made incredible beyond imagination humanitarian service project from April 18th to 21st helping our poor community with serving free to underprivileged kids and young adults who have dental problem and cannot afford in Rural / Tribal Areas of Agra District. People came from distance of 60 KM of Rural areas and so happy to take treatment and went back to their village with big publicity that Doctors from America have made good treatment and spreading word that other villagers should take advantage of this Rotary Free Dental Camp.

Live Story that touched:

60+ Year old lady came to me on Day 2nd and said I cannot eat because I have 2+ cavities and asking my Son and Daughter in Law to visit local Dentist but it's been 6 months I am in paid and asking them but the day didn't come and I cannot eat any solid food and loosed weight by 20 pounds. Today my friend told me about Rotary Free Dental Camp and came here with her. Got her Registration and screening done and left her in waiting till dental procedure is done, later she got cavity fixed and went home. On day 4 while we were closing our camp, she recognized me in spite I didn't and came closer and touched by feet, I asked what's wrong I am like your son please don't do this and embrace. She said you

are God to me because I have no money and no resources to get my teeth fixed but you made it happened and today after 6 months yesterday I had solid food wheat bread and vegetables “.

This biggest thank you goes to all guys as “One Dental Team “who are so generous and came from thousand miles to serve humanity “Service Above Self “ .

After camp till day we are receiving dozens of patients who are coming and asking when would be the next camp.

Would invite you guys again next year or earliest to help us on this project of humanitarian service and building stronger community and serving for noble cause .

Thank you .. thank you ... thank you ...

3. How many Rotarians from India we're involved with our project?

From Agra Tajmahal 9 Volunteers plus Local Rotarians working in back office and field total 40 + District Governor / District Governor Elect / District Governor Nominee, District Secretary from District 3110

Visitors from other nearby Rotary Districts, Doctors, 3 VIPS (MLA) , Friends , Family and leaders

Press People from 6 Newspaper and 3 Video Channels

9 Local Volunteers Doctors

15 Staff Members with screening, registration and taking care of all arrangements during camp

14 Pathak Hospital Staff (Nurse, Head and Resident Doctor, Security , Receptionist , cleaning)

Thank you club for helping fund the bathroom for girls your laptop and Refrigeration donation and distribution of tooth brushes glasses and supplies to the Rotary School.

Shri Chunni Lan Inter College

Rahul Wadhwa

Project Coordinator

Rotary Club of Agra, India

Cell : [+919412263054](tel:+919412263054)

HOW MUCH DID THE PROJECT COST? \$ **Over 150,000.00**

DISTRICT CLUB AWARDS SUBMISSION FORM AVENUES OF SERVICE AWARDS – PAGE 2

DESCRIBE HOW THE PROJECT BUILT RELATIONSHIPS AND/OR PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ROTARIANS AND OTHERS, BETWEEN THE ROTARY CLUB AND OTHER, SUCH AS OTHER ROTARY CLUBS, OR GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY BEING SERVED:

We took Rotarians from 5 clubs and 2 districts in California and partnered with the Rotary Club of Agra India on this. Please see their list of volunteers above)

DESCRIBE HOW THE CLUB RAISED FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT. (A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER, A DISTRICT GRANT, ETC. IF FUNDS FROM A GLOBAL GRANT WERE USED, INCLUDE THE GRANT NUMBER):

Newport Beach Sunrise Foundation contributed \$3500.00

NBSR Members collected auction items to help fund this program (approximately \$10,000.00)

San Clemente Rotary Provided \$1,000.00

Rotaract Students, Rotarians and Volunteers paid their own way to participate in this project.

HOW MANY MEMBERS OF THE CLUB PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT? **100%!**

If they did not travel to India, they helped collect or pack toys, dental supplies or raise funds at our fund a need dinner in March.

HOW MANY NON-MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT?

Well over 200

Note: Every Non-Rotarian Dentist that volunteered on this trip was so amazed with Rotary and our club that they have submitted an application to join our club

5 new members have submitted applications to join our club because of this project!

They have all been approved by our Board of Directors and we are waiting the 7 days for approval per our club bylaws.

Dr. Haleh Shaheedy

Dr. Simon Gamer

Dr. Kiyomi Yamazaji

Dr. Travis Hunt

Jennifer Stone Dental Hygienist

5 new members from one project and they have all committed to next year's International Clinic in Thailand!!!