

DISTRICT GRANT FINAL REPORT  
ROTARY CLUB OF AVALON

Project Description:

1). Due to geography and limited medical resources, the residents of Catalina Island must travel, by passenger boat, to the mainland for specialized medical care. The Catalina Island Medical Center and Clinic has a rural facility designation that is staffed primarily by family practice physicians. Residents of our community that require consultation with specialists, additional diagnostic testing, and/or surgery must travel to the mainland for their consultations and follow up care. In addition, several of our community residents are chronic dialysis patients or cancer patients needing frequent, sometimes daily trips to the mainland to receive their chemotherapy or radiation.

The Medical Transportation Grant Committee included 14 Avalon Rotarians. The Committee Chair met with the Catalina Island Medical Center business office and Social Services Department. It was decided that the Social Services department and Medical Staff would screen and validate patients that had referrals to the mainland for medical care. These patients would be screened by the medical center business office to verify that they qualified financially. To maintain health record privacy (HIPPA) of the recipients; the Rotarians were not given any specific medical information on the recipient's diagnosis.

Details of the District Grant were announced to the physicians and the nurse practitioners at a hospital "Medical Staff" meeting. Our club's Public Relation's Chair wrote an article about the transportation grant (see enclosed) and submitted it to both local newspapers: the Catalina Islander and Avalon Bay News.

Committee members met with the manager of the Catalina Express Avalon office to discuss ticketing policy. It was decided that gift cards with the Rotary Emblem be provided to the recipients to be exchanged for boat tickets. Catalina Express staff was instructed that the patient for their transportation for medical care could only use the gift cards, with the Rotary emblem. A letter was composed by a member of the Medical Transportation Grant Committee and translated into Spanish since some of our recipients do not have English as their primary language (see enclosed samples). A copy of this letter on Rotary Letterhead was placed in an envelope with each gift card.

A member of the Social services department would contact the Committee chair when a qualifying patient had an appointment scheduled. The recipient would be contacted by a member of the Committee to arrange a time and place for the letter and gift card to be presented.

Beneficiaries of the grant were Avalon community members who required medical travel to the mainland. Examples included diagnostic testing, surgery, consultation with medical specialists, radiation, chemotherapy, radiation for cancer treatment, and kidney dialysis. With the median per capita income of Avalon being \$26,000 annually, many patients qualified based on the medical center business office criteria for "charity care".

2). 14 Rotarians comprised our Medical Transportation Grant Committee.

3). Committee tasks completed:

a). Composed and submitted articles for the Local newspapers.

b). Attended meetings with Catalina Island Medical Center and Catalina Express.

c). Composed a letter for each recipient explaining the grant and what Rotary Club does.

d). Dispensed gift cards to recipients at a mutually agreeable location.

e). Provided transportation in their vehicles to and/or from the patient's home to the Avalon Boat Terminal when recipient's requested.

4). A total of 45 gift cards were purchased with the grant funds in a combination of commuter book gift cards (5 round trips) at the cost of \$192.50 per book and single round trip gift cards at a cost of \$74.50. In total, 101 round trip boat fares were purchased for medical travel. Commuter Books cards were issued to qualifying residents who were traveling frequently on a regular basis for their medical care.

5). Beneficiaries received medical care and treatments not available on Catalina Island. This will hopefully increase longevity and improve the quality of life for the grant recipients of our community. With Rotary International's focus on family, this grant helped ease some of the financial burden of the cost of travel. Many of our recipients were the primary breadwinners of their family and unable to work during their treatments or medical appointments. Often the Rotarians dispensing the gift cards had occasion to meet, not only the recipients but their families as well. I feel the interaction of the grant committee and the community at large had a positive effect on spreading Rotary's message.

6). See #1.

Catalina Island Medical Center: Medical and Financial Screening of Potential Recipients.

Catalina Express: Working with Transportation Grant Committee to Purchase Transportation to Qualifying Recipients.

Financial Report: See attached receipts.