

District Rotary Foundation Seminar 3 Dec 2022

Goals: For participants to develop a keen understanding of the following components of The Rotary Foundation and their Impact:

- The PolioPlus Society and its Importance
- The Paul Harris Society and its Importance
- The White Society and its Importance
- Ways to Express Appreciation for & Encourage Major Gifts
- Rotary Peace Fellowship Programs

A Story About Hope for Better Health

When Mr. Eustasio Rodriguez Rosales' vision started to fade, so did his job prospects because he could not see well. Eyeglasses would have easily solved the problem; however, in the mountainous region of northeastern Mexico where he lives, the nearest clinic is 150 miles away. Although Mexico provides the Seguro Popular (health insurance to poor people), they often have to wait up to a month to see the doctor. The disease does not wait.

Gerardo Molina, an otologist and member of the Rotary Club of San Nicolas de Los Garza, Nuevo Leon, says that his club was interested in becoming involved with sustainable projects and opportunities to partner with organizations to make a greater impact as part of its strategic plan.

A Story about Hope for Better Health (contd)

After assessing rural communities throughout Nuevo Leon and the neighboring states of Coahuila and Tamaulipas, the club determined that health care was a critical issue. Mexico's health care system struggles to provide equal and consistent access to health services, particularly for the poor.

Partnering with the Rotary Club of Austin, Texas, the club received a global grant for \$50,000 from The Rotary Foundation. The funds were used to add more mobile units to the health brigade program known as Caritas de Monterrey, which is a branch of the Catholic humanitarian organization Caritas International. The brigade has delivered free health care to underserved areas since 1985. The money was used to add more units to the Caritas fleet and equip them with hearing, vision, and dental supplies.

A Story about Hope for Better Health (contd)

- Club members regularly volunteer to train medical interns for mobile clinic trips, as well as volunteer for the trips themselves. Dr. Molina performs hearing tests and screenings, while traveling with the brigade. The club regularly conducts community assessments to make sure the program treats the most vulnerable and delivers necessary health care and services.
- Show video of Mr. Morales and Dr. Molina to demonstrate the impact of this project.
- <https://youtu.be/YkRBb9ZWOiA>

A Story about Hope for Better Health (contd)

Concluding statement from Dr. Molina:

When we develop and implement a medical brigade or serve the community by providing for maternal and child health, economic development, or to promote peace and understanding in the communities, this enriches us and opens our eyes to the potential that Rotarians around the world have.

The Rotary Foundation Mission:

To advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.