

Individual Project Report

Military Veterans Scholarship

Project Description

1. Describe the project. What was done, when, and where did the project activities take place?

The Military Veterans Scholarship is intended to help honorably discharged U. S. Military veterans earn an undergraduate degree, graduate degree, or vocational/technical/professional certificate to help improve their quality of life and that of their families, while also positively contributing to their communities. This financial assistance is needed, since costs for such items as tuition, books, fees, manuals, software, laboratory equipment, tools, and other resources are often very high and cannot be covered by the financial assistance that the veterans may be receiving. So, additional financial support is certainly warranted to help these veterans, who have given so much to our country to help us maintain our way of life.

The Military Veterans Scholarship is based on availability of funds for our District Block Grant. In 2017-2018, the District Foundation Committee allocated \$6,600.00 to fund this scholarship. The Committee will annually review the availability of funds to determine the amount that can be allocated for this scholarship.

Once the scholarship amount had been determined, Juan Lira, a veteran of the U. S. Marine Corps and chair of the District 5930 Scholarship Committee, contacted David Garza, an honorably discharged veteran of the U. S. Army and a fellow Rotarian from The Laredo Rotary Club, to determine if he would be willing to help coordinate the dissemination of information regarding this scholarship to interested veterans within District 5930. After agreeing to do so, David, in collaboration with Juan, disseminated information about the scholarship to all the Veterans Service Officers in the colleges and universities within District 5930. They also shared this information with all the VSOs in charge of veterans' services in the various counties within District 5930. Finally, they sent information about this scholarship to the leadership teams of all the Rotary clubs in District 5930. Juan and David also responded to various questions from interested veterans and spoke at different Rotary clubs to share information about the scholarship.

During the fall 2017 term, interested applicants contacted the leadership of Rotary clubs in District 5930 to request their endorsement and thus meet one of the requirements of the scholarship application. Two honorably discharged veterans of the U. S. Navy eventually submitted their respective completed applications to David Garza by the November 8, 2017 deadline. He then provided them to Juan, who subsequently sent them to the members of the D5930 Foundation Scholarship Committee for review prior to the November 18, 2018 interview at the Best Western Northwest Corpus Christi Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas. After careful consideration following the interviews, the Committee decided to fund the scholarship requests from both applicants. They are now attending Laredo Community College in Laredo, Texas in pursuit of professional certification in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC).

2. How many people benefited from this project?

Two applicants benefited from this scholarship.

3. Who were the beneficiaries, how were they impacted by this project, and what humanitarian need was met?

Both beneficiaries are honorably discharged veterans of the U. S. Navy. With the scholarship, one of the applicants was able to purchase a computer with the necessary peripherals he needed to complete his course assignments. The other veteran was able to purchase required HVAC equipment he needed to properly participate in the courses he was taking.

In both instances, these scholarships allowed these veterans to continue their pursuit of a higher education to

effectively prepare themselves to enter the career of their choice as well as properly provide for their families. Meeting this vitally important humanitarian need is in keeping with Rotary's focus of serving others to help improve their quality of life.

Richard Zundt, one of the recipients, is scheduled to graduate from Laredo Community College with his HVAC certification on May 11, 2018. The other recipient, Xu Tan, plans to continue pursuing the HVAC certification and hopes to graduate in the 2019 semester.

4. How many Rotarians participated in this project?
Approximately 11 Rotarians participated in this project.

5. What did they do? Please give at least two examples, not including financial support provided to the project. Each of the applicants approached the leadership of two different Rotary clubs to request their endorsement and thus meet one of the scholarship requirements. Prior to securing the endorsement, both individuals were interviewed by the leaders of the clubs. The leaders included one or more of the following individuals: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms. In addition, David Garza and Juan Lira responded to questions to help the veterans prepare their applications. Finally, Juan and the other five members of the District 5930 Foundation Scholarship Committee interacted with the veterans during the interviews.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?
No cooperating organization was involved, since this scholarship comes from a District 5930 grant.

Financial Report

Date	Description	Funding Source	Amount	%		
Jan 05, 2018	Richard Zundt - Veterans Scholarship	District Grant	\$2,702.56	65.87 %		
Jan 05, 2018	Xu Tan - Military Scholarship	District Grant	\$1,400.00	34.13 %		
Total:			\$4,102.56	100.00 %		
Description	Supplier	Local Amount	Currency	Tax	Total	Amount
Military Veterans District Scholarship	Johnstone Supply	\$2,702.56	USD	\$0.00	\$2,702.56	\$2,702.56
Military Veterans Scholarship	Xu Tan	\$1,400.00	USD	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Total:					\$4,102.56	