



Service Focus

Economic and Community Development:

Poverty Mitigation and Amelioration

March 15, 2013
Version 1.1

Focusing Service Projects on Poverty

The Daybreak Rotary Club should focus its service locally and globally on poverty-related issues. Specifically, the club should engage in opportunities to mitigate poverty's affects and ameliorate the causal factors when possible.

The club is already engaging in such service and seems to be interested in poverty mitigation. The club has worked to provide better housing to McLean County's impoverished by twice helping with Habitat for Humanity building projects and dedicating proceeds from the club's first major fundraising event to Habitat for Humanity of McLean County.

Poverty is a huge issue affecting a large population - 13.1% of the world and 15.0% of the local population. There are many opportunities locally and globally to improve the lives of the poor and help support economic development.

Future Vision Plan and Rotary International Areas of Focus

Rotary International has identified areas of focus, which includes economic and community development. The club's apparent interest in poverty issues aligns nicely with this area of focus. For that reason, the club would more easily qualify for Global Grants under the new Future Vision Plan.

Micro Lending as a Club Interest

Appeals to the club for service topics fell flat. Only one club member suggested a topic, which was related to microcredit, also know as micro lending. This relatively new financing movement seeks to match donor lenders with individuals in developing countries who need small numbers of dollars to begin businesses. These borrowers then can become self-reliant and boost employment and economic development in their communities. The club could easily pool dollars and make major impacts in communities around the world.

Proposal

Based on the club's demonstrated commitment to poverty mitigation and at least one member's interest in micro lending, **a service focus on poverty is recommended** for the Daybreak Rotary Club.

The following pages provide greater detail on the issue of poverty globally and locally, general ideas for service projects and links to more information about Rotary International's Areas of Focus and micro lending via the Rotary Action Group for Microcredit (RAGM).

Poverty Mitigation and Amelioration and Daybreak

Approximately 925 million people around the world live in poverty.¹ Within McLean County, Illinois, approximately 15.1% of the local population live in poverty, or about 24,148 people.²

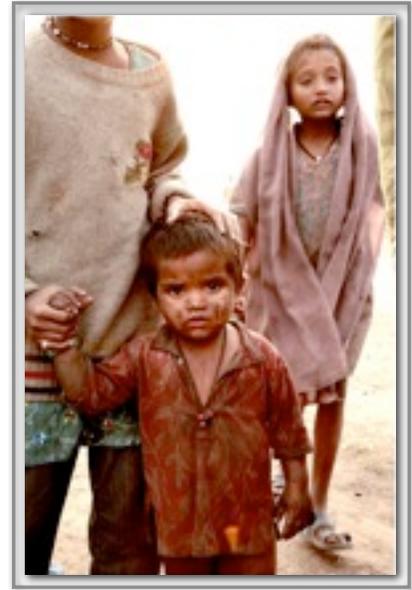
The Daybreak Rotary Club is specially equipped to focus service work on poverty mitigation and amelioration wherever it can globally and locally because a large number of Daybreak members own or manage businesses or work in the financial services or agriculture industries. The membership is experienced and skilled with two primary concerns related to poverty:

- Economic Development and Security
- Sustainable Food Production and Distribution

Mitigation versus Amelioration

Poverty Mitigation

Poverty mitigation is the act of improving the affects of poverty on individuals and communities. Projects with goals to mitigate poverty intend to help people suffer less because of poverty. They do not intend to address the causes of poverty for individuals or communities.



"Children Living in Poverty"
Public Domain Image
by Dylan O'Donnell 2010

Poverty Amelioration

Poverty amelioration is the act of improving the causal factors that contribute to persistent poverty for individuals and communities, of which there can be many. Poor education, inadequate nutrition, economically depressed communities, limited healthcare, corruption and conflict can fuel poverty conditions to continue and/or be the result of persistent poverty.

Local versus Global Project Ideas

Types of local projects that may appeal to Daybreak members include collection drives, support of local organizations focused on education and career development, and institution of Daybreak-developed programs to help the poor move to sustainable living.

¹ Hunger Notes. *2012 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics*. December 04, 2011. World Hunger Education Service. (<http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm>). 03/05/2013.

²Social Impact Research Center. *Illinois' 33%: Report on Illinois Poverty*. Heartland Alliance. (<http://ilpovertyreport.org/county/mclean-county#.UTY-fNK9KK2>). 03/05/2013.

Global project ideas may be centered around sustainable agriculture, the generation of economic development, conflict resolution, and better access to improved healthcare and education.

Local Service Ideas

- Support programs such as Junior Achievement, helping improve employability by teaching interviewing skills.
- Clothing, food, school supply drives.
- Organize career and education fairs.
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- Provide vocational training in areas of members' expertise.
- Build low-cost, high-quality housing with Habitat for Humanity.

Global Service Ideas

- Fund Heifer International purchases
- Support sustainable agriculture education programs in developing countries
- Plan projects to provide better educational materials to schools
- Engage in micro lending programs.
- Directly impact communities in developing countries through vocational training.
- Support fair trade programs.

Rotary International's Areas of Focus

Rotary International has identified six areas of focus, considered integral to the organization's Strategic Plan and to The Rotary Foundation's Future Vision Plan. Daybreak's service focus on Poverty Mitigation and Amelioration aligns closely with the Economic and Community Development area of focus.

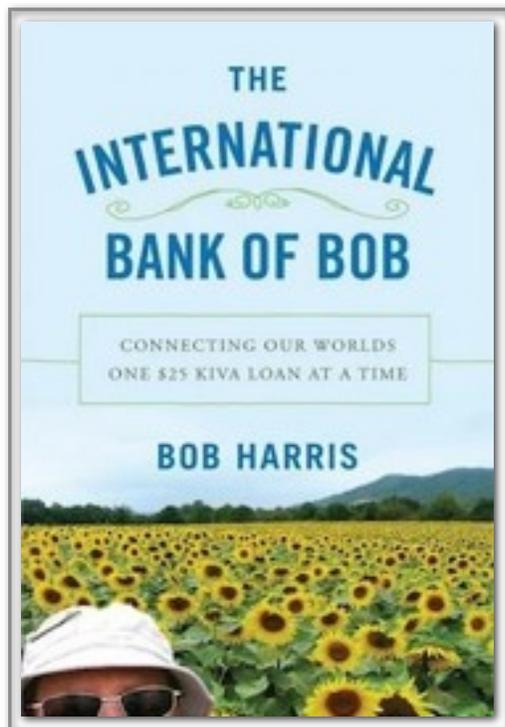
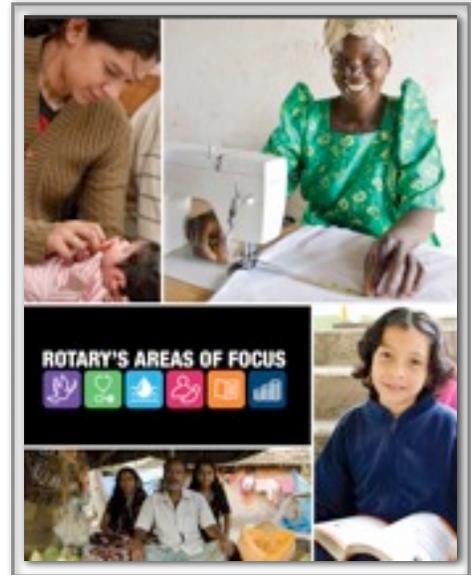
http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/965en.pdf

Micro Lending

The Rotary Action Group for Microcredit (RAGM) exists to help clubs engage in microcredit programs, funding local entrepreneurship in developing countries. According to the RAGM website, the organization is "the official vehicle of Rotarians focusing on alleviating poverty."

<http://ragm.rotaryglobal.net/m/home.asp>

<http://ragm.rotaryglobal.net/m/blog/339/The International Bank of Bob/>



Additional Information

The following is excerpt information from a number of sources, all cited

World Hunger Education Service

- There were 925 million hungry people around the globe in 2010. That is 13.1% of the world population or 1 in 7 people.
- 578 million of those were in Asia and the Pacific.
- 19 million were in developed nations.

World Hunger concluded that "poverty is the principal cause of hunger." The report cited three main reasons:

1. Neglect of agriculture relevant to very poor people by governments and international agencies.
2. The current worldwide economic crisis.
3. The significant increase of food prices in the last several years which has been devastating to those with only a few dollars a day to spend.



Rethinking American Poverty - A Modest Proposal. amputd.com.
Public domain image courtesy of Flickr.

US Department of Health and Human Services

- Cited the US Census Bureau data indicating 15% of the US population was living in poverty during 2011. That amounts to 46.2 million people in the US.
- 44%, or 20.4 million, lived in deep poverty or less than \$11,511 for a family of four.
- The percent of people in all categories living in poverty in America increased from 11.3% in 2000 to 15.0% in 2011.
- The percent of children living in poverty in America increased from 16.2% in 2000 to 21.9% in 2011.

- Households led by females only were more than 4 x's likely to live in poverty in America in 2011 than households headed by two adults.
- Nearly half (47.6%) of all households led by single females lived in poverty in America during 2011.
- 27.5% of all African-Americans were living in poverty in the US during 2011.
- 25.3% of all Hispanics were living in poverty in the US during 2011.
- 9.8% of all white, non-Hispanics were living in poverty in the US during 2011.

Global Issues: The Human Development Report

Published in July 2012, the report indicated:

- 50% of the world's population lives on less than \$2.50 per day.
- 80% of the world's population lives on less than \$10 per day.
- 22,000 children die each day as a result of poverty.

Links

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/12/povertyandincomeest/ib.shtml>

ASPE Issue Brief

Information on Poverty and Income Statistics: A Summary of 2012 Current Population Survey Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

<http://www.statisticbrain.com/world-poverty-statistics/>

Statistic Brain

World Poverty Statistics

<http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm>

Hunger Notes

2012 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics

World Hunger Education Service

http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/income_expenditures_poverty_wealth/poverty.html

The 2012 Statistical Abstract

Income, Expenditures, Poverty, & Wealth: Poverty

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://ilpovertyreport.org/county/mclean-county#.UTadOtK9KK1>

Illinois' 33%: Report on Illinois Poverty

Social Impact Research Center

Heartland Alliance

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/17113.html>

State and County Quickfacts

McLean County, IL

U.S. Census Bureau

Revisions Log

| Revision # | Date | Description | Version |
|------------|------------|---|---------|
| 1 | 03/15/2013 | Page 2, 2nd paragraph. Change: Removed comma from this sentence: "The club is already engaging in such service, and seems to be interested in poverty mitigation." | 1.1 |
| 2 | 03/15/2013 | Page 2, 2nd paragraph. Change: Removed unnecessary "a" character from the following sentence: "The club has worked to provide better housing to McLean County's impoverished by twice helping with Habitat for a Humanity building projects and dedicating proceeds from the club's first major fundraising event to Habitat for Humanity of McLean County." | 1.1 |
| 3 | 03/15/2013 | Page 2, 5th paragraph. Change: Corrected typo to replace errant "e" character with "the" in the sentence: "The club could easily pool dollars and make major impacts in communities around e world." | 1.1 |
| 4 | 03/15/2013 | Page 3, 3rd paragraph. Change: Removed extra word, "the," in the sentence: "Poverty mitigation is the act of improving the the affects of poverty on individuals and communities." | 1.1 |
| 5 | 03/15/2013 | Page 4, Local Service Ideas highlight box. Change: Changed "supporting" to "support" for improved parallelism in the bullet: "Supporting the community care clinic." | 1.1 |
| 6 | 03/15/2013 | Cover page. Change: Changed date from March 06, 2013 to March 15, 2013. Added version number. | 1.1 |