

Status Report

Project: Children With Cancer Program, Intensive Care Unit Project

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Subj: Intensive Care Units (ICU) for the Cancer Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City

Project web site: www.RotaryProjectsVietnam.org

History

In 2003 Michael Howard and Dr. Anthony Tsang, both Canadian Chamber of Commerce members, identified the need for Intensive Care Units (ICU)s in the pediatric ward of the Cancer Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam promotes business between the two countries, and supports humanitarian projects to improve the quality of life for the Vietnamese people. With the support of the involved governments and hospital leadership, this project was initiated. Visit www.canchamvietnam.org for more information.

Sue McKinney from The Rotary Club of Oakland Sunrise is an active advocate of this project and is coordinating the Rotary involvement. Sue lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City 10 months out of 12. She also represents her Rotary District 5170 for projects in Southeast Asia. Visit www.howardtours.net/TheSun for more information.

In May 2004, Forrest and Michelle Lloyd, father-daughter team representing Rotary District 5240 in California, toured Vietnam for 20 days. Sue introduced us to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce project and we joined the team. Since that visit, Michelle moved to Ho Chi Minh City and works there full time.

In March 2005 Assist International (AI) joined the project team. AI is a not for profit corporation located in California that specializes in installing ICU equipment in underdeveloped countries. They install new or like new donated ICU equipment. They also train the staff to operate and maintain the equipment and support the equipment for a year. Visit www.assistinternational.org for more information.

In late 2006 Rotary District Governor Kasemchai Nitiwanakun from 3350 located in Thailand joined the team. He and other Rotarians in District 3350 are providing Rotary project oversight. Kasemchai and Forrest submitted a Matching Grant application to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) for \$25,000 to support this project. Regretfully, this matching grant was turned down. Rotary International policy requires a Rotary club at the project site to be responsible for project execution. When the RI matching grant was rejected, the District 5240 \$5,000 of matching dollars were also rejected by default. Rotary clubs left Vietnam in the mid 1970s and to date have not been allowed back by that Government.

Status:

The acquisition of funds to support this project is setting the schedule. All other risks appear low. Had the Rotary International Foundation approved the \$25,000 grant and the \$5,000 of district fund request, installation of the 4 ICU units would have taken place

in late May of this year. As new information becomes available, a new status report will be disseminated via the project web site identified above.

The project is alive and well. The presentation material is inspirational and generates enthusiasm. We will raise the funds to execute this project!