

BULLETIN



Meeting date: April 18, 2023

Virtual or In-Person: In-person

Visitors / Guests: Patricia and Rod Crossley – guest speaker(s)

Amelie Schmelter – Rotary Exchange Student

Jacqueline Mealing

Recap Paragraph:

Rotarian Patricia Crossley shared with us the work that she and her husband have been doing with the Virtues International Project. The program centers around teaching and empowerment for girls. Patricia and Rod have been traveling to Kenya since 2001 with the help of Rotary International and District grants. An NGO was established and numerous projects have been implemented. In 2017 the NGO was closed. Patricia and Rob went back in 2019 to finish off some projects and then again last October (2022). They assisted with the following:

- Scholarships to the girls
- Supplies & textbooks for schools and students
- Solutions to staff issues
 - Interviewed to select a building supervisor
 - Hired an office assistant
 - Costed a solar system
 - Requested and received an estimate for installation of a water system.
- Visited the Rotary Club of Kakamega
 - DG Visit, polio walk
- While there the latrines collapsed (this is a common occurrence) at Elakho Primary School. They were able to find donations to replace the latrines.
- The Assembo Community is suffering from extreme drought. However, they were able to put in a rope & washer pump there. News however came in that, after a month, the well went dry and they weren't able to find more water. Heavier equipment is needed.

Lastly Patricia talked about bicycles. They were able to fund 5 bicycles built in Kenya for Kenyans. The eClub District 5020 agreed to provide 15 more and the World Bicycle Relief fund purchased 15 more. Bicycles are given to the children to ride to school, shortening the

time to and from school so they do not return home in the dark. Having to walk to and from school is particularly dangerous for girls as are 'attacked'. When the students finish school the bikes are returned. There is a need for more bicycles, they cost \$200 to \$250 Canadian and come with a pump and repair kit.

Vicky thanked our speaker(s) for the very informative talk.

Announcements:

1. Bocce in the Park Event April 27th at Beacon Hill Park by the Cricket Pitch – invitation from Ed as our Club sponsors the Oak Bay Neighbours magazine.
2. Paul Harris pins given to Janet Power
3. Cheque for the Mustard Seed for \$3,310 given to Colleen and an equal one to Heather - proceeds from the 50/50 ticket drawn on April 4th.

Next Meeting: May 2nd – Sports View Lounge – Oak Bay Rec. Centre

Prepared by Heather