

Press Release:

For Immediate Release

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BATH ROTARY CLUB'S INTERNATIONAL PROJECT IN GHANA



In addition to community service projects, local Rotary Clubs also gain an understanding of humanitarian issues and have a significant impact on them through international service projects. In 2010 the Bath Rotary Club initiated plans and communications for an international project in Ghana. On April 30th Deacon Ray Defendorf and Mike Slovak, of the Corning and Bath Rotary Clubs respectively, will travel to Ghana to finalize plans for a Rotary International project to support the village of Ko.

One of Rotary's Five Avenues of Service is International Service which encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian support of communities around the globe.

The Bath Rotary Club became involved when it learned of the needs of the people in the Village of Ko in the Upper West Region of Ghana, a community so remote and impoverished that most of its residents have no electricity, running water, or public sanitation. These needs were brought to the club's attention by Father Peter Anglaare, formerly of Ko, who had traveled to the United States to serve parishes in the Southern Tier of New York State, including those in Bath and Hornell. Although Father Peter is now a U.S. citizen, he returns to Ko regularly and donates a substantial portion of his income to assist his village, especially with educational needs.



Education, however, is not the only need in the Village of Ko. Many villagers lack stable employment and equipment necessary to make a viable living. Diseases carried by mosquitos remain a major problem, and there is also a need for medical equipment and supplies for the local clinic.

Thus, the Bath Rotary Club is teaming with the Rotary International Foundation, the Rotary Club of Bolgatanga in Ghana, other Rotary Clubs of District 7120 including Corning, Ontario-Walworth, and Wayland, as well as individual donors to make a significant difference in the health and economic well-being of the people of Ko. The goal of the combined effort of these groups and individuals is to provide for the purchase of mosquito nets for the people of

the community, medical equipment and supplies for the local clinic, sewing machines with the training to use them effectively, and scholarships for girls going into high school.

Supported almost entirely by the generosity of Rotarians, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, the philanthropic arm of the organization, awards millions of dollars each year to worthy projects carried out by clubs and districts working at the local level and in international partnerships. The Ghana Project fulfills four of the six Areas of Focus for these proposed grants including, disease prevention and treatment; economic and community development; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy.

Anyone interested in more information about this special project should contact Michael Slovak, Bath Rotary Club International Projects Chair, at 769-4900 or slovakmj@gmail.com. If you wish to support this project with a personal or organizational donation, please make your check out to the "Bath Rotary Foundation" and mail it to: Bath Rotary Club, P.O. Box 648, Bath, NY 14810.

The Bath Rotary Club, chartered in 1923, meets every Thursday at noon at the May Street Restaurant at the Bath Country Club.