

**Bob Ruehl D6600**  
**Chair**  
**International Service**

**Here is Humanity in Action**



### **Project Installations Planned**

- 1000 Sand Filters
- 600 Justas Stoves
- 50 Biodegrades
- 300-600 Composters
- 300+ Eco Ovens
- The Honduran Federal Government will give all of the population a health check before construction begins and again at the end of the project to track the progress in health. This has not been done before with any project in Honduras.
- The Honduran government will also supply 1.5 million fruit trees for planting.
- Rotary Partners  
USLA and Lima  
Rotary, D6400, D6600,  
D4250, D6290, and D5970

After 30 months of competition our 3H Humanitarian Grant has been approved.

Rotary International approved the grant for work in The San Pedro Sula area of Honduras. El Merendon Reserve is a community in the mountains North Northwest of the city. It is located at an average elevation of 4000ft above sea level. The area is the water shed for the water reservoir above San Pedro Sula which is below the area. There are 600-750 families and 5000-7000 people living in this area. The farming is primarily for coffee, however, some areas lend themselves to other crops. New construction is



limited by the government to existing dwellings. Over population is a concern. A \$300,000 3-H Humanitarian Grant has been approved by Rotary International.

The grant is a design of the USALA Rotario in San Pedro Sula In conjunction with the D6400, Plymouth, MI as primary leaders. D6600, D5970 Iowa, D6290 Ontario/Mi and the Lima Rotary Club are joint sponsors of the application. The objective of the grant is to provide for the improvement of Nutrition, Health, the Environment, Economic Enablement, and the education of the population to improve their agriculture practices and land use.

Two examples of stoves already in place, in the lower right of each photo.



**If you could speak to these young ladies they would tell you that cooking on this Justas stove is a real luxury for her family. Tending a ground fire and cooking is like camping out for the rest of your life. The menu this day was pork skin soup, rice, and beans.**

**The Justas stoves provide for more attention to cooking methods, health, and a vast reduction in the burning of natural resources, a 75% energy savings.**

**The El Merendon area is important to the people of Cortez Province of Honduras because of loss of trees because of their use as firewood. Erosion has become an increasing issue. Cooking in this manner takes ten times the wood to cook a meal as do the JUSTA Stoves.**



**The erosion concerns are great, considering that the area agricultural practices do not provide more than subsistence farming for many residents, the Honduran government will provide for the planting of 1,500,000 citrus and fruit trees. The objectives of this process is to improve the nutrition and health of the population, enable them to sell the produce for their economic survival, reduce/prevent erosion and provide a long term solution to the firewood issue.**

**In order to have a benchmark on the health and nutrition of the population the government will send a brigade of health workers to examine all residents and determine their health status before and after 5 years in this planned development. This is the first scientific step that the government has attempted in their planned help for their people in this area.**

**Along with erosion the disposal of waste is a significant concern as everything flows downhill. The location of the region to the water shed for San Pedro Sula makes a success very necessary. The bio-digesters are meant to take all bio waste and reduce it to a liquid. The digesters will sometimes**



be shared to homes located together. A product of the digesters is a liquid fertilizer that can be used on coffee plants. Farmers have been taught that using the liquid waste in this manner, that after three years that they could become certified as organic coffee growers and obtain \$25.00 more per hundredweight for their bagged coffee.

The biogas digesters are a collection system for bio-waste. The waste is converted to a liquid which is used for fertilizer. One of the byproducts is ethane gas which is piped in to the homes for cooking.



### **Saving Lives**

#### **Providing Employment**

**1000 Sand Filters will be installed.**

These filters will be made in a new business developed in Honduras. Potable water is scarce. Chagas and Leishmaniasis are significant health issues. The parasite from Chagas will cause death after significant suffering. Leishmaniasis causes disfigurement and infection of the mucous parts of the body.

**1 child in 3 will die before the age of 6 because of a lack of potable water.**

Hygiene training will be conducted with all parents to teach the need for good sanitation and hand washing with potable water.

Pure Water for the world has donated the mold for the filter you see. The objective that USALA Rotary Club has is to create a manufacturing operation in Honduras to make and market the filter for everyone in Honduras at a minimal sustaining price.



**Justas eco-ovens are designed for Micro Business. The objective is to provide the women who can make specialty items, to enable them to earn funds for their family.**

**The process of making coffee marketable creates a lot of coffee shells which if allowed to degrade in one place will contaminate the ground for further production of food stuffs. Using composters will avoid this issue.**

## Coffee Plants



## Composting

### **Project Planning.**

**The Rotarians in the USALA D4250 have held many meetings with representatives for DIMA, Aguas de San Pedro, Pure Water for the World, and Caritas in order to learn more about each project area and its cost. There were many hours of preparation. USALA Rotario and the supporting Rotarians in the US, visited the area and held discussion with community members. We identified the needs of the area, discussed**

**USULA Rotario All 38 are leaders. These people have contributed \$10,000 of their own funds  
Toward the project. It is expected that the project will be underway by December of 2008 and last till 2011 unless extended to other areas.**



**alternative solutions and calculated the cost. DIMA has organized the communities and conducted a complete census of all the families who will be benefitted by the project.**  
**Project Participation**

**USALA Rotario and their cosponsors in the US and Canada have the task of planning all activities needed to carry out the project, in addition to training, supervising and executing these activities and managing the financial resources. There are five missions planned from June 2008 through Mar 2009 to work with this project and others. Tom Kennedy and Bob Ruehl are coordinating efforts in D6400 and D6600.**

#### **Rotary Identity**

**There will be two billboards and information will be provided to the newspapers. In each of the projects Rotary will be identified as the main organization in charge of coordination and implementation. The Rotary emblem will also be placed in high-traffic locations. The project's progress will be made known in the club's newsletters and web site. Press releases will also be given the *Revista Rotaria*, *The Rotarian* and other publications. These items are still being planned.**

#### **Community Participation**

**A key success factor will be the scope of community participation. We will plan the use of the technologies, workforce, and provision of materials found locally that are friendly to the environment. Community people will Assist with the training and management. They know and have described the needs and aptitudes of the beneficiaries to create other sources of income with the new technology provided. Community leaders will be encouraged to document additional issues which develop during the period of implementation, and in follow up discussion.**