

ROTARY DISTRICT 6080 PANAMA PROJECT

REVIEW OF 2011 PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Panama Project in 2011. With the support of the Missouri National Guard and our fellow Rotarians in Panama, we were able to accomplish the following:

- We assembled and provided 300 well-baby kits to new mothers in Panama.
- We shipped 35 PET (Personal Energy Transportation) vehicles to those in need in Panama, with our fellow Rotarians in Panama beginning to distribute them.
- We raised over \$10,000 to support to support the kits and to purchase water purification systems. Fresh drinking water is tremendous need throughout Panama, particularly in the jungle region of the Darien Province.

A NEW YEAR, A NEW PROJECT - 2012

The partnership with our fellow Rotarians in Panama is just beginning, along with our collaboration with the Missouri National Guard. Rotarians in Panama have identified other needs in their country, and we hope District 6080 will again answer the call. Here is an overview of the vision for this coming Rotary year.

Clothing Collection: We are asking clubs to collect clothing (men's, women's, and children's)

- We are asking you to collect only lightweight clothing due to the climate in Panama.
- No waist sizes larger than 36".
- Clothing should be sorted and boxed by "Men, Women, or Children."
- If used clothing, they should be lightly worn, nice enough for you or your grandchild to wear.
- Clean, lightly worn shoes are good.

Walkers and Crutches: There is a need for both of these items, especially collapsible walkers.

Sports Equipment: There is a need for Frisbees, baseball equipment, soccer equipment, and other sports equipment. This is a great opportunity to check with your local schools for gently used equipment.

Children's Toys: This could be an opportunity to initiate a project with your local schools.

Books and School Supplies: Improving education and literacy is crucial to these areas. Important to make sure books are in Spanish.

WHERE TO SEND ITEMS

If possible, we would prefer items to be transported to the following location in Columbia. Thank you to Rotarian Terry Furstenau for arranging for storage. Please contact Terry at (573) 886-7877 to arrange delivery. The storage facility is located at 1908 Heriford Road, Columbia, Missouri, 65202.

Items can also be brought to the Rotary District Convention in Branson from October 18 to 20. However, the preference is to have items delivered to Columbia.

HOW ITEMS GET TO PANAMA

The Missouri National Guard will again assist with transporting items to Panama, and working with our fellow Rotarians there to make sure all items arrive properly.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have further questions, please contact Jim Wieberg or Ken Hussey.

- Jim Wieberg, (573) 636-8255
- Ken Hussey, (573) 761-9178, khussey@jcmca.org