

# Project Fair Attendance Grant, District 5160 2019 Narrative Report Format

## General Information

2019 Project Fair Program IV  
4217-4281 District - Colombia  
Bucaramanga, Colombia  
February 1-2, 2019

Hercules Rotary Club, Project Fair Grant Attendance Recipient  
Steven Kirby, [stevenkirby@msn.com](mailto:stevenkirby@msn.com), Project Fair Attendee

## Summary of Experience

The Bucaramanga Project Fair IV was a wonderful Rotarian experience. I arrived a couple days earlier and stayed a couple days later in order to attend local Rotary meetings and visit local club projects. I was fortunate to attend four of the local seven club meetings and visit three local club projects.



The first project was for an elementary school which had contaminated drinking water. The students got sick after the government provided a school food program. The local Rotary Club determined that this was caused by the drinking water. They coordinated a project which filtered the water and otherwise supported the school, and currently there is increased attendance and plans by the government to rebuild the school. I started a pen-pal letter program with a classroom there, and our teachers, PTA, and local Rotary Club plan to raise funds to provide materials based on their list of needs.



The second project was near a food processing center where, unfortunately, the working parents were bringing their children with them also to work. As this was a highly unacceptable situation, the local Rotary club worked with the government to build a school nearby and, as a project, helped to provide for the school and a small activity field. The club now plans to develop the activity area into a mini-soccer field with other sports activities to encourage better community participation with the school.



The third project was within an impoverished area that services a nearby Hotel, Country Club, and community. There are many single-family mothers with pre-school aged children who work or try to work in this community. There were no facilities for children aged 1-4, so the local Rotary club is working with the government and their community to provide a pre-school for these children. Currently they are fundraising and preparing to build a school fence around the field and the buildings.

Since I was fortunate to visit these projects personally, they will be part of my basis for explaining and encouraging international involvement with other Rotary Clubs. During the next few months I will be guest speaking at my local San Francisco East Bay Area Clubs. I can be contacted at the above email address for an invitation to bring my PowerPoint presentation to other clubs in District 5160.

## Featured Projects

There were 39 Projects submitted to the Project Fair. About 25 presented during the Fair.

There were in six basic categories:

***Peace Prevention / Conflict Resolution (6),  
Maternal & Child Health (4),  
Disease Prevention and Treatment (5),  
Basic Education and Literacy (5),  
Water and Sanitation (11),  
Economic & Community Development (8).***

The documentation for all these projects is included in a PDF entitled,

***“Project Presentations to International Rotarians.”***



One of the great things about this Project Fair and the Presenters is that each project was selected and organized to address the guidelines for international grants. These Districts in Colombia are fully prepared to work closely with international partnerships successfully to meet the requirements for grants.

I found all four clubs I met to be very hospitable and highly dedicated to Rotary and their projects. They all expressed interest and willingness to begin communications with other clubs and with working together toward relationships which foster cooperation on projects.



## **Project Fair Trip Follow-up**

Our area of the San Francisco East Bay has eight Rotary clubs, and Bucaramanga, Colombia has seven clubs. As of this writing I have presented a PowerPoint review of the Project Fair to half of our local clubs. It is my intention to encourage all our local Rotary clubs to engage in communications with the Rotary clubs in Bucaramanga.

As I mentioned, before leaving I had prepared pen pal letters to present when I arrived, and I received responses before I returned. I am beginning to help coordinate a project with our teachers, PTA, and the local Rotary club to raise funds specifically to meet a determined need of the school I visited.

In conversations with another local Rotary club, I learned that there might be an opportunity to support a dental project through a second Bucaramanga Rotary club.

And, in conversations with a third local Rotary club, I found that we might begin to engage in conversations and maybe exchanges, similar to Sister Cities International.

Additionally, conversations have begun around the idea that our eight local Rotary clubs could coordinate a larger project, raise funds together, and apply them to a future International Grant. There are so many possibilities.

Please contact me at [stevenkirby@msn.com](mailto:stevenkirby@msn.com) for anything further regarding the 2019 Project Fair Program IV in Bucaramanga, Colombia.