



Fund raising and project activity undertaken by RACARAG members, supporters, Rotary Clubs and other Rotary entities 2009 - 2015

The Rotarian Action Group looks primarily to promote awareness of projects and to take action in furtherance of its aims. In most cases the projects, although promoted & advised by RACSRAG will be sponsored by Rotary Clubs, and other organisations.

To avoid double exchange rate charges RACSRAG encourages donors Clubs and others to pledge / send funds through Clubs directly to the primary sponsor or project's charitable organisation. RACSRAG will however accept funds for onward transmission if this is the donor's wish. Until such time as funds are received to set up a Rotary Foundation Donor Advised Fund, RACSRAG is unable to benefit from The Rotary Foundation's Global grant leverage programme, available to Rotary Districts and its constituent Clubs,

In consequence, the Action Group's accounts reflect just the tip of what is a very impressive and progressively developing global programme of Rotarian energy focused on raising funds for and progressing RACSRAG endorsed anti-slavery projects.

Over \$275,000 has been raised since 2009

Since the formation of the informal group – Rotarians Against Child Slavery, the then supporters, now RACSRAG members, friends and clubs have raised funds for a variety of projects. These range from the purchase of motor cycles for anti-slavery activists and staff to monitor the survivors of slavery to the construction of buildings for accommodating and rehabilitating the temporary residents of Trafficking Shelters and Safe Houses. These may be viewed in greater detail [here](#)

Examples of anti-slavery projects completed to protect children from slavery and its consequences are:



- A. **Purchase of an 8 seater vehicle** for use by activists in Uttar Pradesh, India, to rescue children from slavery in northern India. The vehicle, costing **US\$14,700**, was purchased with the aid of a TRF Matching Grant and personally delivered to Bal Vikas Ashram (a Child Slave Rehabilitation Centre) by UK members of RACSRAG.
- B. **Establishment of a Vocational Training Centre** at Kalimpong, East Bengal, India at a total cost of **US\$ 69,000**. The project, which was funded with the help of a TRF Global Grant, is expected to be completed in September 2015.
- C. **Construction of a brick built Gazebo** at a cost of **US\$6,900** at Punarnawa Ashram , (a Trafficking Shelter in Bihar State, India). The Gazebo, which has no walls, enables the resident girls to have outdoor lessons in the heat of the summer. The Gazebo is also used for staff and other meetings.
- D. **Purchase of vocational training and other equipment** at various Rehabilitation / Trafficking Centres at a total cost of c.**US\$25,000**. The training equipment is used a) to teach survivors skills needed for them to be self sufficient in their future life; and b) as a gift to the survivors when they leave their Rehabilitation Centres to help them reintegrate into their own homes and villages.



- E. **Installation of solar lamps** at Punarnawa Ashram at a cost of **US\$ 9,800**. The lamps are floodlighting the perimeter walls of the Centre to deter slave masters and pimps from scaling the walls to recover their former “investments”, ie the escapees from sex slavery.
- F. **Further protection of the girls at Punarnawa Ashram** by extending the height of the perimeter walls surrounding the Ashram by 5 feet at a total cost of **US\$ 18,500**.
- G. **Research and development of an APP designed to help determine the identities of victims of human trafficking** Costing some \$4,400, the bulk of the funding was provided from RC Norwich St Edmunds **\$3,120** with the balance provided through RACSRAG. The APP has been developed by the Mekong Club, a group of business men, based in Hong Kong, dedicated to combatting human trafficking in SE Asia.
- H. **Construction of a brick built bio gas oven** for Punarnawa Ashram, in order to generate energy for the Shelter’s kitchen which has to feed 40 young girl survivors of sex slavery. The oven, fed with dung from the cows, was also funded by RACSRAG supported clubs. Total cost of the brick built oven plus 4 cows was **US\$ 5,500**.



In the Rotary year 2014-2015 global fundraising activity reached new levels

Responses from our Coordinators and Officers suggest that no less than **\$82,450** (£52,770) has or will be generated through events, promotions and appeals launched this year. These funds were / are held mainly by Rotary entities and have, or will be dispensed to RACSRAG supported projects. Here is a selection of those made known to RACSRAG.

1. **South Australia Coordinator, [Teresa Evans](#)**, her late and much missed Rotarian activist mother, Val Kirk and the team have held a Rock Night, a Movie Afternoon (12 Years a Slave), a Music4Freedom Concert (local music students). They have also held garage sales, fairs (selling donated goods) and sold Sausage Sizzles and Chocolate.

Since the Sydney Convention when they were formed they have raised a magnificent **US\$8,470** in support of a RASRAG promoted project called [Schools4Freedom](#).

2. **Coordinator [David Black](#) (Oceania)** coordinates donations for the care and protection of the Akha children at the [Rescue Mission for Children Centre](#) in Northern Thailand (RM4C) through his Club’s Charitable Trust.
3. **[Tony Stokes](#) – Coordinator for Victoria, Australia organised** a ‘Cluster talk’ for Melbourne Clubs with guest speaker RACSRAG Member and Coordinator for Western Australia, Dr Gillian Booth Yudleman.

With subsequent support of his Club and its Members on a matched basis, a total of AUD6,212 (**\$US 4,570**) has been lodged with the Rotary Australia Worldwide Community Service charity ([RAWCS](#)) for the benefit of [Maiti Nepal’s](#) Transit Homes in Kathmandu.



4. **Coordinator for Western Australia, [Dr Gillian Booth Yudleman](#)** has wonderfully engineered support for Maiti Nepal over the years.

At the time of writing some AUD40,000 (**US\$ 29,400**) is lodged with RAWCS in readiness to develop a TRFGlobal Grant application.

5. **RACSRAG Member [Carol Metzker](#)** (West Chester, Pennsylvania – One World e-Club) provides talks, organises “Dress for a Good Cause’ fundraising events and more. Carol is the driving force behind one of RACSRAG promoted current projects ‘Schools4Freedom (S4F), sponsored by [Voices4Freedom](#). This project already has pledges of over **\$US 21,000** towards its \$US36,000 target.
6. **RACSRAG has also inspired Rotary Clubs, schools and individuals to provide funds directly for the following project beneficiaries** (sums shown are in US dollars equivalent).
- Funding of Vocational Training Equipment, eg Singer sewing machines for Maiti Nepal (Individual member of RC of Norwich St Edmund) - **\$2,150**
 - General donation to the Mekong Club (Individual member of RC of Washington DC) **\$1,000**
 - Funding of Human trafficking APP designed by the Mekong (RC Norwich St Edmund) **\$3,200**
 - Donations to Basu Rai for NGO Registration fee (Individual member of RC of Norwich St Edmund) **\$150**
 - General donation to [Maiti Nepal](#) (Individual members of RC of Norwich St Edmund & RC Diss) **\$270**
 - [Maiti Nepal](#) – Immediate earthquake relief (RCs of Norwich St Edmund, Norwich Blackfrais and Norwich plus a local school) **\$5,000**
 - [Asha Nepal](#) – Immediate earthquake relief (RC of Norwich St Edmund and two individuals) **\$ 1,000**
 - [Maiti Nepal](#) and other anti-slavery projects in Nepal will also benefit from a matched funded public appeal organised by RC Stevenage Grange following the recent earthquakes up to £4,000 **\$6,240**

Funds received and included in the formal Accounts for 2014-2015 will be dispensed to project beneficiaries (£ to \$US conversion of 1.56)

- RC West Perth & D9455, Australia £1,485 - **\$2,315** to be determined by the Board
- The Rotary Clubs of Swaffham, together with RC Burnham on Crouch & Dengie Hundred have each contributed £500 towards a longer term project of benefit to [Maiti Nepal](#) following the recent earthquakes. In addition a further £500 has been received and sent to Punarnawa Ashram on behalf of RC Burnham on Crouch & Dengie Hundred for immediate cyclone relief. These Clubs collectively donated **\$2,340**
- A private donation, with funds from RC Stevenage Grange, also channelled through RACSRAG, completed the funding of the [The Mekong Club's](#) victims support APP, The APP assists Police and rescue agencies identify and assist victims across in Asia irrespective of language **\$1,140**.



In summary

Consistent with RI policies for Rotarian Action Groups, the Board of RACSRAG continues to encourage anti-slavery projects through engagement of Clubs and others. As will be seen by viewing this summary, and the formal accounts, total funds processed through RACSRAG reflect a very small part (5%) of total Rotarian activity.

At no time has RACSRAG held funds in excess of RI Policies, namely \$25,000.

Project funds, held by RACSRAG at the year-end (30th June 2015) amount to £4,488, say \$7,000. The bulk of which is earmarked to assist Maiti Nepal through a prospective TRF Global Grant application, being developed by RACSRAG Coordinator and project leader Dr Gillian Booth Yuddleman in Australia

Thanks for taking the time to review RACSRAG's progress in making that difference to a cause you care about. If you are not a Member why not [sign up now](#)

Stephen Sypula
Treasurer
August 2015

