

News

Local residents to volunteer in Guatemala

Evanston Rotarians travel with Guatemala Literacy Project to help impoverished schools

On Jan. 28, four local Evanston Rotarians, Julia Murray, Sandra Lowe, Diane Datteri and Toni Bradford, will travel to Guatemala with a group of 28 volunteers from across North America to bring educational opportunities to impoverished children.

The Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP) group will deliver first-ever textbooks and inaugurate brand-new computer centers in rural schools.

Along with providing these badly-needed education tools, volunteers will experience Guatemalan life and culture through personal interaction with students and families.

Judy and Dick Martin, Arizona Rotarians and past GLP trip participants, remarked, "The trip far exceeded our expectations in every way. It was inspiring to be with such a fine group of caring people and to have an opportunity to make a difference in a hurting and needy world. We loved it and hope to join



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the group again someday." Illinois Rotarian Diane Damico added, "If I tell people one thing about the delivery tour, it will be that it

was the best trip of my life."

In 13 years of existence, the GLP has established 193 textbook programs, 43 computer centers, 43 mini-libraries and 394 one-year scholarships.

There are over 35,000 children using GLP textbooks, 15,200 students being trained at GLP computer centers and almost 150,000 textbooks in circulation.

The Delivery Tour is an ideal opportunity to be a part of the good things that the GLP is accomplishing.

Rotarian and tour participant Carolyn Johnson summed up her impressions of the GLP's lasting impact on helping schoolchildren in Guatemala: "The long-term effect of the project, providing the means for people to plan for their future, is the real life example of giving 'hope'."

Service tours with the GLP and partner nonprofit Cooperative for Education take

place every February and August and are open to all.

More information can be found at www.coeduc.org/tours.htm.

The Guatemala Literacy Project was founded in 1996. Close to 350 Rotary clubs across the globe support the GLP, in partnership with the U.S.-based nonprofit Cooperative for Education (CoEd).

CoEd's mission is to help Guatemalan schoolchildren break the cycle of poverty through education.

CoEd works to accomplish this mission by creating self-sustaining textbook, library, and computer center programs within impoverished community schools.

These programs are designed to improve both traditional and technological literacy, which are the corner stones of economic development. Learn more at coeduc.org or guatemalaliteracy.org.