

Rotary Club of North Fulton  
Alpharetta, Georgia, USA

The relationship among Rotary Club of North Fulton, the Mbabane Mbuluzi Rotary Club and Heart for Africa (located in Eswatini, Africa – formerly Swaziland) dates back over ten years. It began in 2009 when RCNF and the Mbabane Mbuluzi Rotary Club sought and obtained an approximate \$30,000 international grant for a John Deere tractor that was sent to HFA and is still being used today.

In 2013 the Rotary Club of North Fulton's donor advised fund, the RCNF Crawford Fund donated \$10,000 to pay operating expenses for the first year of Project Canaan's new medical clinic.

The success of this working relationship led to the application by RCNF and the Mbabane Mbuluzi Club for a Rotary Foundation Global Grant to help fund a \$300,000 water dam project that was dedicated in 2016. Because there were excess funds from the grant, 10 2018, with the RI Foundation's blessing, were able to fund a second 500,000-liter (132,000 gallon) water tank.

In 2015, through a \$20,000 grant from Rotary District 6900 and \$5,000 from the RCNF Crawford Fund, the RCNF provided the funding for the first 500,000-liter water tank. The two tanks now provide 1 million liters of water for use on Project Canaan.

John Bach and his wife Patti Jo made the initial trip to Eswatini (then called Swaziland) in 2008 at which time John introduced himself to the Mbabane Mbuluzi Club and preliminary discussions about a possible project began. Thereafter, a total of seven other RCNF members and their family have accompanied John and Patti Jo on three additional trips to HFA in Eswatini. During these trips, the RCNF club members met with the international partner club members, and members of both clubs joined with the country's District Governor for the dedication of the Living Water Dam. Eleven other Rotary clubs from District 6900 contributed to this project, as well as clubs from Ottawa, Canada (District 7040) and Missouri, USA (District 6060). We envision similar participation forthcoming if this GG is granted.

In terms of who would benefit from this project, the vocational school would expand its training of HFA workers as well as offering new vocational training opportunities to those in the community, where unemployment is rampant. Each class in this particular project would allow up to 15 students. Currently, HFA has over 300 employees at Project Canaan (its site in Eswatini), many of whom would be thrilled to learn skills. Project Canaan Academy, which educates not only the children in Heart for Africa's care who reside there, but is also available to other children in the community on a tuition basis. It currently provides classes up to the third grade, and each year an additional grade is added as the children age. If the GG is granted, the children at the HFA school would gain a tremendous vocational teaching resource available to them, and it would not be long after completion of the vocational school that some students would be ready to seek employment. So, the project would have an enormous impact on current Heart for Africa employees, those men and women needing training and employment in the surrounding communities, and the future of children being raised as the next generation of leadership in Eswatini.

For more information please contact International Chair and Past President, John Bach at [john@JohnCBach.com](mailto:john@JohnCBach.com) or 770.296.9138



## **Education & Employment: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty**

HOPE (Hunger. Orphans. Poverty. Education) is the foundation for Heart for Africa's work in Eswatini, and it is in those areas we focus our initiatives. Heart for Africa fights hunger, cares for orphans, decreases poverty and provides education through a variety of initiatives. Decreasing poverty is the primary objective of Heart for Africa's employment opportunities at Project Canaan, its 2,500-acre farm (and site of its children's homes, schools, and other enterprises). Work provides purpose, and nurtures dignity and self-worth. Heart for Africa is seeking to expand the impact of the Lusito Mechanic Project, a vocational training program that equips people to become mechanics and welders. Offering vocational training and employment to lift people out of poverty and provide sustainable income for families is a key objective of Heart for Africa's vision to bring hope and help to the people of Eswatini. Over 50% of the population of Eswatini lives in poverty, subsisting on less than \$2 dollars per day while unemployment ranges as high as 70%. Opportunities for employment are even more challenging for women and this program could provide additional support for them.

### **Program Partners**

As our technical support partner for the Lusito Mechanic Project, Mercy Tech Mission brings proven experience at building the capacity of Africans to learn welding and mechanic skills for sustainable employment. Mercy Tech Mission – a Canadian nonprofit organization – fights poverty by bringing skills training to needy communities. It does so by partnering skilled professionals from all walks of life in community-based employment training projects, especially in developing countries.

Since 2011, Mercy Tech Mission volunteers have been traveling to developing countries to share their trade skills with local people in need of vocational training and employment. Using a combination of classroom teaching and hands-on learning, Mercy Tech Mission has provided skills training in areas such as automotive and heavy duty mechanics, driver training, carpentry and wood turning, welding, machining, electrical, and concrete work. In 2015, Mercy Tech Mission began working in Eswatini (formally Swaziland) with Heart for Africa to provide welding, heavy equipment repair and mechanic training to men and women in need of training and employment. This collaboration has proven very successful at imparting critical vocational skills to Swazis and we are prepared to take it to the next level to achieve the objectives described below.

1. Provide vocational training to Swazis that delivers marketable skills.
2. Offer employment that breaks the cycle of poverty and pays a living wage.
3. Reduce operational expenses incurred from using outside vendors for fleet and heavy equipment maintenance.

### **Program Overview**

- Mercy Tech Mission would expand its provision of hands-on, dedicated classroom training with skilled professionals each year (who raise their own funding) while continuing to provide online technical support and assistance through video calls to students. This is supported by

a resident program manager, who has worked with Mercy Tech Mission for years and supervises the ongoing training and work of participants.

- To fully develop skills and enhance employability, a two-year course for mechanics is proposed with a program certificate of participation received upon completion.
- With this level of training completed, participants would be able to enroll in the trade school in Mbabane, Eswatini, for further training or employment.
- Due to the level of skills training provided in this partnership, application could be made to the Swazi government to become qualified to grant licenses directly through the Lusito program.
- As an alternative to those participants who wouldn't want to make a two-year commitment, a 6-month course in Basic Vehicle maintenance would be offered, in which basic subjects like oil changes and tire repairs, basic electrical (lights, charging systems, etc), brake repairs and some basic suspension would be offered. This short course would enable the participants to gain employment as an apprentice somewhere or even provide simple maintenance to vehicle owners in their home community.
- With this expansion, the Lusito Mechanic Project will also include a body shop so courses could be included on panel beating (body work) and painting.
- Welding and machining training would take place in the Lusito shop, with a timeline of 12-18 months for completion.
- Class size would be approximately 12 – 15 people, with both men and women invited into the program.

### **Investment Opportunity**

Funds are needed to purchase the necessary equipment and build out the structure needed to house classrooms, repair bays and maintenance areas.

Total funds needed for equipment, materials, etc.	\$165,000
<u>Total funds needed for building renovation &amp; expansion</u>	<u>\$245,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$410,000</b>

With the necessary investment, we can deliver vocational training and employment that breaks the cycle of poverty and preserves families. We can reduce operational expenses, create employment that will benefit our project, the surrounding communities and exponentially increase the scope of Heart for Africa's mission and impact in Eswatini. Most importantly, this project will contribute to the overall sustainability of Project Canaan through a focus on workforce development, training and employment.

# Rotary Club of North Fulton

2020 Global Grant

Funding Plan

\$165,000

## The Rotary Foundation ("TRF") will only match District Designated Funds ("DDF")

	Notes	
RC of North Fulton makes donations to the AF totaling	1	\$ 20,000
Other RC in District 6900	2	\$ 10,000
District 6900 contributes DDF totaling	3	\$ 30,000
Subtotal		\$ 60,000
TRF World Fund match	4	\$ 60,000
Subtotal before parties outside District 6900		\$ 120,000
Remainder needed		\$ 45,000
Rotary Clubs outside District 6900	5	\$ 20,000
Other Districts willing to contribute their DDF totaling	6	\$ 5,000
TRF World Fund match		\$ 5,000
Other parties that are not directly affiliated with Rotary	7	\$ 15,000
Subtotal non District 6900 funding		\$ 45,000
Total		\$ 165,000

- 1 RC of North Fulton plan to raise \$10,000 from Paul Harris Society Members, \$5,000 from matching points campaign and \$5,000 to be determined
- 2 Seek contributions to Annual Fund ranging from \$2,500 to \$500 from 10-15 clubs in District 6900
- 3 District 6900 will match dollar for dollar any contribution to the annual fund for an approved Global Grant
- 4 The Rotary Foundation matches dollar for dollar any funds coming from District Designated Funds
- 5 Clubs from 2014 dam project, other clubs in State, other club nationally and other club internationally
- 6 Unknown if clubs outside District 6900 will have their contributions match with DDF, but assume a portion will be matched which in turn will be matched by TRF.
- 7 Explore if there are viable options to seek funding outside our Rotary network, e.g. Heart for Africa ("HFA"), others???

Rotary Club of North Fulton - August 13, 2020