

Rotary District 5960 Fast For Hope Investing For Impact

Exploring new ways of serving as Rotarians in
the world

2019 Fast For Hope Presentation



Roads & Water



Literacy & Health



Leadership



Capacity & Engagement

As many of you know FFH has been working in Nicaragua since 2007. Last spring a civil disturbance erupted which has affected what we have been able to accomplish in the past year. I will talk about this more later in the program, but because of events, we are using this year's program to also talk more about what we have learned and about the principals for economic development that we are attempting to implement.

Rotary District 5960 -Fast For Hope

Building...

- What is Fast For Hope
- What we have learned
- Status of Nicaragua Initiative
- Update on Nicaraguan unrest

In this presentation we will talk about:

(See animated bullets on slide)

Rotary District 5960 -What is Fast For Hope

- District Wide Program
- Unique to our District
- Does not Involve Foundation Dollars
 - Except for Specific Projects
- Depends solely on \$10/ Rotarian Contributions

Has been around since the 70's. It is unique to our district.

It is called Fast for Hope because initially clubs would forgo one meal each year and the monies for that meal would go to Fast for Hope. Now clubs do a variety of activities including one that has a NCAA basketball pool they call Hoops for Hope.

Money can be spent as we would like, not tied to Rotary Foundation restrictions. In past years funded fistula hospital in Ethiopia, feeding program in Haiti, Books for Africa and water wells in Haiti as just a few examples.

Benefits

- Don't have restrictions that Foundation funding has.
- Allows us to:
 - Be creative & innovative
 - Take risks
 - Try new ideas
 - To make mistakes and to learn from them
 - Make a long term commitment

Benefit of FFH. In the Nicaragua Initiative we have tried new things, we have taken risks, we have made some mistakes but we have also learned a lot.

RI's new Vision Statement

- Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change—across the globe, in our communities and in our selves.
- To do this we need to:
 - Increase our impact
 - Enhance participant engagement
 - Expand our reach
 - Increase our ability to adapt

This is RI's new vision statement. If you recall the attributes of FFH from the previous slide you begin to see how those attributes can help us to achieve this vision.

FFH Steering Committee

9 members provide accountability, which include:

- 4 Past District Governors
- 1 District Governor Nominee
- Current DG, DGE & DGNE invited to all meetings

In addition to a strong presence of District Leadership on the FFH Steering Committee, the chair provides quarterly reports to the International Chair which are then presented to the District's Board of Directors. This results in strong governance.

“The tragedy is the West spent \$2.3 trillion on foreign aid over the last five decades and still has not managed to get twelve-cent medicines to children to prevent half of all malaria deaths”

The White Man's Burden by William Easterly, former senior research economist at the World Bank

Easterly was interviewed by the Rotarian a few years ago. This lack of more success really motivated the district leadership to look for a better way of helping the poorest populations in developing countries.

End of Poverty, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs

2007

District Leadership was audacious enough to believe we could create a model that:

- Addresses Extreme Poverty in Developing World
 - Defined as \$1.90 / day as of 2011
- Sustainable
- Replicable

In 2006 at the RI Convention, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, challenged Rotarians that we are the first generation with the resources to end extreme poverty in the world. He advocated a process of working with a community as a whole rather than just focusing on projects. Our district leadership was audacious enough to charge the Fast for Hope Committee with learning how to do this.

Our Classroom for Learning El Corozo - Nicaragua



After an assessment and selection process, the Fast For Hope Committee in conjunction with District leadership elected to work intensively and intentionally in Nicaragua in 2008. The plan was to invest long-term to make a meaningful difference in eradicating poverty.

Located in Central America, Costa Rica borders Nicaragua to the south and Honduras to the North of the country.

Travel to Nicaragua is not difficult. It is only a 3 ½ hour flight from Atlanta.

Additionally, Nicaragua is the 3rd poorest country in the western hemisphere.

It was one of the safest countries in Central America until last spring.

The star shows Managua, the country's capital and where we fly in and out of. Kairos is the NGO we are working with. They are based in Managua. Many of you have met Elena who directs Kairos.

We are with El Corozo. A small rural community of about 80 families located about 1 ½ hours south of Managua.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

WHY DO WE GIVE OF OUR TIME AND MONEY?

We want to help others

We want to make the world a better place

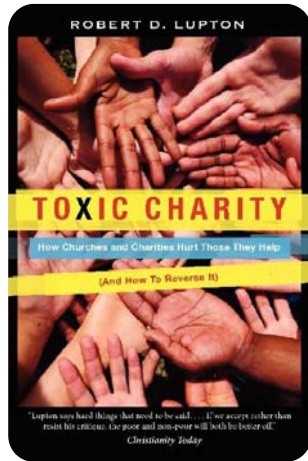
Because we think we can make a difference. Yankee know how.

It makes us feel good

There are a lot of reasons why we give of our time and money to help others, but lets not under estimate that quite often a major influence is it makes us feel good. The danger this presents is the desire to feel good can often cause us to unintentionally do more harm than good with our giving.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OTHERS

Suggested Reading and Viewing



If you want to learn about this this I would strongly encourage you to do one or both of the following

- Watch Poverty Inc., on either Amazon or Netflix. It is only about 90 minutes, it is in a documentary format, but it moves along quickly and is interesting.
- Or, read Toxic Charity by Bob Lupton. Bob has dedicated his life to helping the poor both in our country and internationally. We had Bob speak at a Rotary event last June. The book is easy to read and frankly after you have read the first half you can skim the second half.

DON'T BE PATERNALISTIC

“One of the biggest mistakes that North Americans make – by far – is in applying relief in situations in which rehabilitation or development is the appropriate intervention.”

Corbett & Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*

Relief is for emergencies, like floods or fires. It is doing something for someone. All too often though we provide relief in nonemergency situations and that then leads to dependence.

“Doing *for* rather than doing *with* those in need is the norm. Add to it the combination of patronizing pity and unintended superiority, and charity becomes toxic.”

Lupton, *Toxic Charity*

What more can I add. This is the premise that the FFH Initiative is built on.

“The poor, no matter how destitute, have enormous untapped capacity; find it, be inspired by it, and build upon it.”

Lupton, *Toxic Charity*

What we have learned in Nicaragua, is that when challenged, the poor still have resources and capacity.

Is your project:

- Competing/impacting a local business
- Are you using local materials?
- Are you using local labor? Responding to the desire to help people
- Address people, not issues
- Building relationships, not buildings

Who are the true beneficiaries of your project?

Here are 5 questions to ask when evaluating a potential project. These questions are not intended to be exhaustive, but hopefully will get you thinking.

What are the unintended Consequences?

- Volunteers building homes/schools
 - Secret Of NGO's
 - Mission Trips are effective at
 - Raising Money
 - Building Relationships
 - Less effective at economic development



Have you ever been on a mission trip to build something?

I am probably going to offend some with what I am going to suggest next. Have you ever thought how much was spent on your mission trip including airfare? Are you particularly skilled at construction? What would happen if the same amount of money that was spent on your mission trip was spent instead to hire local labor? How would that help the local economy? What would it do to create job skills. What would it do for self-respect?

The reason it isn't done more often it because just donating the money doesn't feel as good. Donors don't contribute as much. The mission trip industry generates over \$1Billion per year. Who really benefits?

So as crass as it sounds, we are adversely affecting local communities by doing things for them that they could do, because the result is we will contribute more. NGO's know this and some will even admit it.

Significant Lessons Learned From our Experience

- Myriad of Issues Keep a Community in Extreme Poverty
 - Projects only address a specific need
- The Community Needs to Identify the Need
- The Community Needs to Identify the Solution
- Community Needs to Be 1st Investor
- Need to Move at the Pace of the Community
- Community needs to meet certain criteria

This is not the total of everything we have learned but these are 6 key items.

(You can explain the first 4 by looking at the slide)

Need to move at the pace of the community – It is important to remember that we are working in poor communities where many people work multiple jobs just to survive. There is not an abundance of spare time o meet as a community, to receive training or to work on projects. Plus there are cultural issues. All of this means that progress takes time and we need to respect that.

Also not all communities are ready to move forward. Some have developed a culture of dependency on handouts and that is going to be very hard to break. In others the local government doesn't want the local NGO to be successful, because that will make the local population less dependent on the government.

Requires a Cultural Shift

Nicaragua – also true for many developing countries.

Last century:

- US Marine occupation – 3 generations of dictators
- 2 civil wars in 70's & 80's – earthquakes
- volcanos – hurricanes – extreme poverty
- limited property rights - living day to day.

The result?

This is a summary of the major events that have impacted Nicaragua in the past century.

While these events are unique to Nicaragua, in most developing countries have experienced similar events, be they dictatorships, military occupation, drought natural disasters.

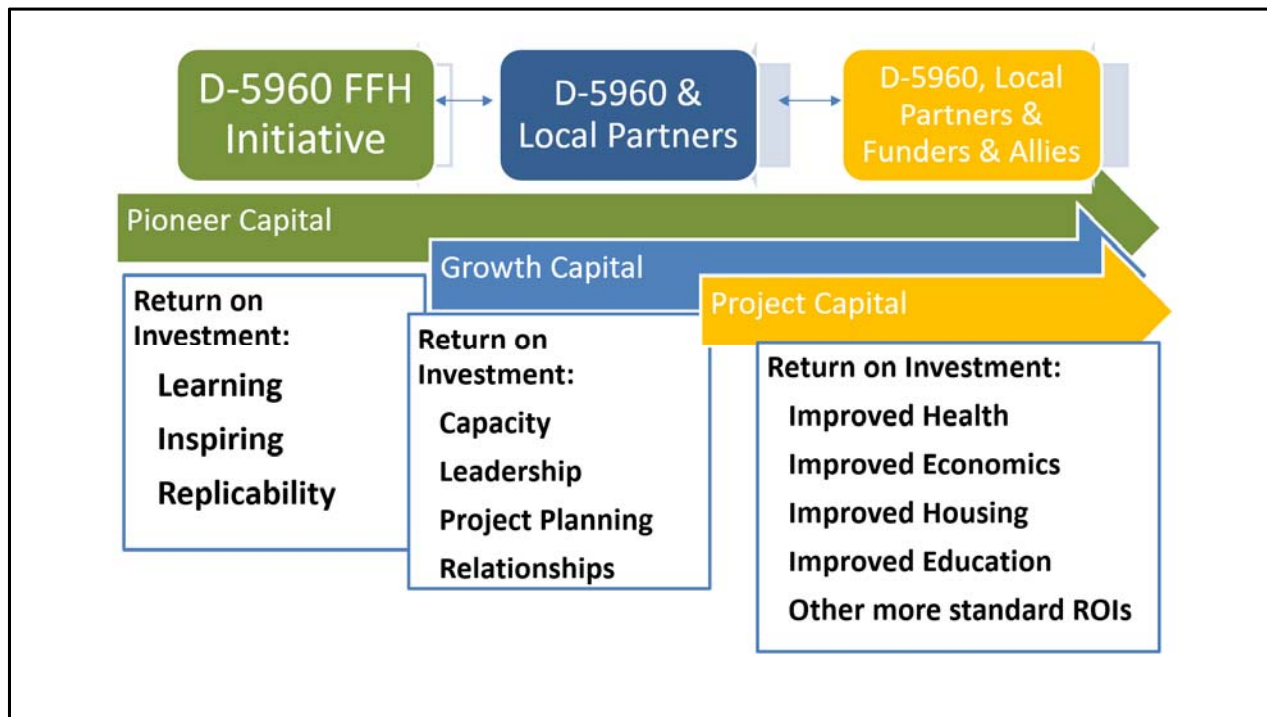
Culture of Obedience

Importance of Building Human Capacity

- Learn to listen to their own voices
- Learn to trust their judgment
- Learn to believe in themselves
- Learn to challenge authority
- Learn to work as a community vs. family
- Takes time

The result is that generally you have generations that have lived in this environment and they learn to rely on others for their survival. It fosters a culture of obedience, of not questioning authority, of not being confident in your own opinions.

It is tremendously difficult and time consuming to change this culture, but this is what creates sustainability.



This chart is from the Acumen Fund, an international development group that receives funding from many of the Fortune 500 companies.

The first step is the planning, creating a model that inspires people to become involved and is replicable.

The second step is capacity building. For the community to learn the skills on the previous slide. This is where sustainability is developed. Unlike projects which can be taken away or destroyed, skills, once acquired, can't be.

The third step is then project implementation. Designed, planned and implemented by the local community with the support of Rotary.

Develop Community Leaders Importance of Investing in People



Case in point.

This is Idalia. Some of you may have met her when she visited our district a few years ago. She is a mother and housewife who grew a few crops behind her home. When she was here she talked about how when she gave birth to her youngest child she couldn't get to town so she laid down and gave birth in a field.

She was an active member of El Corozo's leadership group. She actively participated in the trainings we provided and in November 2017 she ran for the municipal council and got elected.

See the picture on the left. Notice the dirt floor. Look at the picture on the right and notice the new tile floor. What we learned when a delegation visited in fall 2017 was that Idalia had set up a small store behind her home selling pop and cold beer. Now we would not have recommended selling cold beer as a model for economic development, but far be it for any of us to criticize anyone living in extreme poverty for finding a legal way to improve the living conditions for themselves and their families.

Accomplishments to Date

Volunteers on the Ground



26 Delegations to Nicaragua: Steering committee, strategic planning, workshops, cultural delegations – over 60 Rotarians plus family/friends



10 Delegations to MN/WI : Kairos school, community members from El Corozo



It was always our intention to get Rotarians on the ground as a part of this. That is a big reason why Nicaragua was selected.

Rotarians who have participated in one of our cultural delegations describe it as a life changing experience.

We have:

- Over 60 different Rotarians from our District have participated in a cultural delegation.
- We have had 26 delegations to Nicaragua.
- Masaya Rotarians visited our district.
- Community leaders from El Corozo visited.
- Elena from Kairos has visited our District on 10 occasions.

Build Relationships

IN NICARAGUA

- NGO's
- Rotary (including new club)
- Friendships in El Corozo
- Opportunity International



IN MINNESOTA/WISCONSIN

- NGO's
- Other Rotarians

We have built relationships in Nicaragua

We talked earlier about how many delegations have both gone to Nicaragua, but also have visited us here in our District. By building trust, getting to know each others realities, and understanding our similarities and differences, we are laying the groundwork for so many things to happen.

We have developed relationships with NGO's in Nicaragua.

Successes to Celebrate El Corozo – Current Activities



Kairos-led:

- **Children's Program**
 - Up to 5th grade
- **Youth Program**
 - Over 5th grade
 - Leadership development
- **Women's Group**
 - Advocacy
 - Gender equality
 - Women's health
- **Health Care Initiative**
 - 2 Pharmacy kits operational
 - Kits are an asset
 - Looking to expand

We have separate programs for children, youth and woman to build capacity, to teach leadership and gender equity. These programs continue to this day.

There was an active book sharing program and basic pharmacy program prior to the unrest. Currently the Health Care Initiative is more active than the book sharing program. The community wants to expand the Health Care Initiative to include testing for blood pressure and diabetes screening. The community is now talking about a possible library.

Nicaraguan sample poverty scorecard is measure of outcomes

- How many household members are there?
- How many household members between 7 & 18 are enrolled in formal school?
- Their main line of work, in the past 7 days how many were wage or salary workers
- How many rooms does the household have?
- What is the main material of the floor in the home
- What fuel does the household usually use for cooking?
- How many cellular phones does the household have?
- Is there an iron in the home.
- Does the household have a bicycle, horse, donkey, mule, motorcycle or car?

One of the key things we are trying to do is to measure progress and to evaluate impact. The key is to do so objectively, rather than subjectively. We have a number of metrics and scorecards that we have developed. This is one example.

This is probably one thing we don't do a good enough job of in Rotary. How do we know if we are being successful? For any project you do, you should ask yourself what are we trying to achieve? What is our goal and how do we measure if it has been achieved?

NICARAGUA TODAY – CIVIL UNREST

<https://havanatimes.org>

April

- Protests over delays in combatting the forest fire in the *Indio Maiz* biological reserve
- Rebellion begins with protests against Social Security reforms
- First massive march

May

- Roadblocks and barricades go up
- National Dialogue inaugurated
- Ortega allows the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights into the country
- Grief and mourning on Mothers' Day



In April of last year civil unrest erupted. First it was over delays by the government in combating a first fire in a biological reserve, but it quickly grew in scale when the government increased the amount of social security contributions that workers had to pay and a reduction in social security benefits to retirees. This resulted in large scale protests, roadblocks, shootings, kidnappings and militia.

We have found the best source of news is the Havana Times and they have a tab devoted to Nicaragua news. Don't be fooled by the name. The reports are quite objective.

NICARAGUA TODAY

June

- Masaya attacked and religious leaders step in
- Roadblocks intensify all over the country
- Family burnt to death in the Carlos Marx neighborhood

July

- Operation to remove road blocks begins
- The first sanctions against the government
- Government attacks bishops
- Attack on the National University

August

- The list of political prisoners grows and thousands go out on the streets
- First political prisoners declared guilty
- Massive round-up of demonstrators
- Ortega expels the UN mission from Nicaragua



The protests and the governments efforts to quell them, were not limited to Managua. They spread to other large cities over the summer. The church attempted to mediate and many clergy were attacked. The government blamed the US for instigating the unrest. The government arrested hundreds and expelled a UN mission.

NICARAGUA TODAY

September

- Third national strike for the political prisoners
- Medical personnel fired
- Matt Romero, victim #325 of the repression
- Anti-government marches declared “illegal”

October

- A new exodus of Nicaraguans
- 38 people detained during a demonstration in Managua
- Political prisoners reported beaten

November

- Police presence in the shopping malls
- Permission denied for peaceful marches
- First Lady and V.P. Rosario Murillo sanctioned by U.S.

December

- NGOs raided and persecuted
- Attack on the independent media
- Trump approves the Nica Act



- In September a 3rd national strike.
- Hundreds of medical personnel and doctors have been fired because they treated injured protestors or have not shown enough support for the government. PDG Raul was one of those fired.
- Because public protests are declared illegal, their frequency has reduced, but tensions remain high. Paramilitary presence at many of the roundabouts in Managua.
- Nine NGO's had their legal authority revoked and forced to close down.
- Two independent media entities had their offices raided by the police and are closed.
- Trump signed the Nica Act which imposes sanctions

NICARAGUA TODAY

- At least 325 people dead
- Over 500 imprisoned
- Independent media shut down
- Extreme political polarization
 - Most Rotary clubs temporarily suspended operations
- Commercial flights continue at reduced levels
- Rural communities generally peaceful
- El Corozo has welcomed Kairos to return
 - Resuming Children's/Youth/Women's groups
 - Positive things in the community
 - Hopeful and resilient
- Attempting to reconstitute El Corozo's leadership group
- Rotary delegation late Feb 28 – March 3

We are not naïve

- We have friends/built relationships
- If following Venezuelan model, then beyond our capabilities
- Setting short term benchmarks to see if progress can be made.
- If not, work with Kairos to design orderly transition



(You can read the above bullet points)

We have built friendships and relationship with members of the El Corozo community that we cherish. We don't want to bail prematurely. On the other hand if Ortega intends to follow the Venezuela model and the military does nothing to prevent it, then we need to be realistic and evaluate our options.

The community has welcomed Kairos back and they are doing programming. There has been good participation. Prior to the unrest we were concerned that the El Corozo leadership group was becoming ineffective. We were developing with Kairos a way to reconstitute the leadership group. That is also resumed with some success.

We are closely monitoring the level of progress. We are having at least monthly phone calls with Elena and we are setting quarterly benchmarks. As this is occurring, the Steering Committee and International Chair are being kept informed. If the benchmarks aren't being met, then we will need to re-evaluate.

It is important to note that we are comfortable enough that four members of the Steering Committee will visit Nicaragua in late February and spent two days in El Corozo so we could form our own assessment.

NICARAGUA TODAY



How You Can Be Involved

- Contribute - \$10/Rotarian
- Participate in a future Delegation
 - 29% of Rotarians express a desire
 - dave@bancorgroup.com
- Learn More - Reading List



We are hopeful as in Elena.

We are only sending small and limited delegations at this time until we know more. The poll that the district did a year ago showed that 29% of Rotarians express a desire to be part of an international project. If you are interested in learning more about future delegations, send Dave Newman an e-mail.

However the work continues as we continue to fund Kairos and the capacity building they are doing in El Corozo. Now more than ever that work is important. We hope that we can count on every Rotarian in our district to contribute \$10 to support this work.

On the District website there is a FFH page. On it you will find Dave Newman's e-mail address, the link to the Havana Times website and our reading list.

Thank you.

- The End of Poverty by Jeffrey Sachs
- The Blue Sweater by Jacqueline Novogratz
- Bridging the Class Divide by Linda Stout
- Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell
- Collective Visioning by Linda Stout
- Poor Economics by Abhijit Banerjee
- Culture Matter: How Values Shape Human Progress by Lawrence E. Harrison
- If I Had A Water Buffalo by Marilyn Fitzgerald
- Find Me Unafraid, Love, Loss and Hope in an African Slum, by Kennedy Odede and Jessica Posner
- Toxic Charity by Robert Lupton
- Charity Detox by Robert Lupton
- The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else by Hernando de Soto