Kenya Project for Girls (pilot project)

A District Grant for an International Project - Rotary Club of Davis and District 5160

1) District Grants for International Projects

"**District Grants** are [funded by] block grants to the District that allow clubs and districts to address immediate needs in their own communities **and in other countries**."

- For Global Grants, the minimum budget is $30,000
- District Grants can be used for smaller international projects.
- With Global Grants, it is necessary to partner with a Rotary Club in the "host" country
- With District Grants for international projects, this is not strictly necessary, but it's wise.

The Kenya Project for Girls is an example:

• Davis Sunrise contribution	$ 3,400
• District 5160 DDF	$ 6,800
• Total budget (approx.)	$10,200

2) The Kenya Project for Girls

The need: Many girls in Kenya (and many other countries) miss school while menstruating because they can't afford commercial feminine hygiene products. They "make do."

The Results:

- Embarrassment and humiliation
- Many girls miss up to a week of school each month
- Some consequences are more serious (Recently in Kenya, a school girl took her own life following an embarrassing moment.)

The goals: in partnership with Nakuru Rotary Club

- Design a reusable sanitary pad that can be made easily from materials locally available in Kenya and that is comfortable and effective to use.
- Train local women in making the pads.
- Make 8,000 pads for 1,000 girls and distribute them to needy girls in village schools.
- Kick-start a cooperative that will make and sell pads locally.
- Empower the women in the coop and provide them a livelihood.

A pilot project. We hope to learn how to replicate this project effectively in other areas.

Progress Report

- Three women's groups in Nakuru and nearby villages are now producing reusable sanitary towels.
- We are developing a business model for a cooperative.
- So far the project has distributed over 2,000 pads to needy girls in 10 schools in the Nakuru area. We are following-up to learn the results.
- The response by some of the students has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Women in the sewing groups have found a new sense of purpose and community.

3) Going Forward

Contact David Copp for advice about replicating this project or accessing District Designated Funds for international projects. dcopp@ucdavis.edu