

Project Fair Attendance Grant, District 5160, February 2019

**2019 Project Fair Program IV, 4217-4281 District, Bucaramanga, Colombia,
February 1-2, 2019**

**Hercules Rotary Club, Project Fair Grant Attendance Recipient
Steven Kirby, stevenkirby@msn.com, Project Fair Attendee**

4th Project Fair, Bucaramanga, Colombia, Feb. 2019

The Bucaramanga Project Fair IV was a wonderful Rotarian experience. I arrived a couple days earlier and stayed a couple days later in order to attend local Rotary meetings and to visit local club projects. I was very fortunate to attend four of the local seven club meetings and to visit three local club projects.

Hotel Welcoming & International Delegates

The Bucaramanga Rotarians were very gracious hosts. They arranged for me to be picked up and dropped off at the airport, and they took very good care of all the International Delegates.

Attending Four Local Rotary Meetings

During my stay I took special effort to contact and attend four of the seven club meetings. They took me on tours of their city, and we established very nice friendships.

Water Project At An Elementary School

The first project I visited was for an elementary school which had contaminated drinking water. The students got sick after the government provided a school food program, which used the local water. The local Rotary Club determined that this was caused by the drinking water. They coordinated a project which filtered the water and otherwise supported the school, and currently there is increased attendance and plans by the government to rebuild the school.

School Attendance Instead of Working With Parents

The second project was near a food processing center where, unfortunately, the working parents were bringing their children with them also to work. As this was a highly unacceptable situation, the local Rotary club worked with the government to build a school nearby and, as a project, helped to provide for the school and a small activity field.

Daycare Project for Working Single Mothers

The third project was within an impoverished area which services the nearby Hotel, Country Club, and Residential Area. There are many single-family mothers with pre-school aged children who work or try to work in this community. There were no facilities for children aged 1-4, so the local Rotary club is working with the government and their community to provide a pre-school for these children.

5th Project Fair, Cali, Colombia, February 2020

This year's Project Fair will be held in Cali. There are two Districts in Colombia, and they have decided to alternate locations each year in the future. I certainly wish I could attend again. Perhaps I will go back to Bucaramanga next year to be with my new friends!