

District 5160 Newsletter, August 2020

Project Fairs Produce Measurable Results

By Skip McCowan, Member, District International Service Committee

I attended my second Uniendo America project fair in January 2020, this time in Antigua, Guatemala. More than 400 Rotarians from North America and all seven Central American countries met to share ideas about projects that will improve the lives of thousands of people. (See the full narrative report and 87 life-changing projects at <https://disc.rotary5160.org/project-fairs/>)

As a result of friendships made at the two project fairs, my club (Lamorinda Sunrise) and Vista Hermosa Rotary in Guatemala City are in discussions to fund a project to install concrete floors in the homes of families in the village of Tecpan, not far from Guatemala City. According to the findings of a 2007 World Bank study, concrete floors significantly improve the health of young children. "A complete substitution of dirt floors by cement floors in a house leads to a 78 percent reduction in parasitic infestations, a 49 percent reduction in diarrhea, an 81 percent reduction in anemia, and a 36 to 96 percent improvement in cognitive development." For only \$1,000 a home, what a difference we can make!

Your club is invited to join Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and Vista Hermosa Rotary to bring this project to life. For more information, please contact me at jackbmccowan@gmail.com.



The author discussing a potential collaboration at the Project Fair



Project Fair Friends