Short-Term Project Funding Request

Guatemala Dental Module Equipment Replacement

Summary

This project aligns with Rotary's Area of Focus: Disease Prevention and Treatment.

It will provide direct support to low-income Guatemalan children and families who rely on the three University of San Carlos community dental modules. The project addresses urgent needs such as replacing failing dental equipment that limits student dentists' ability to deliver safe, high-quality services.

Project Description

The University of San Carlos operates three dental modules in the underserved communities of Chicacao, San Sebastián, and San Martín. These clinics are staffed by fifth-year dental students who complete community rotations as part of their training. The modules provide free dental services to school-age children, averaging 120–130 patients per month.

Much of the equipment; dental chairs, compressors, sterilizers, and suction systems is outdated and frequently breaks down, reducing the clinics' ability to serve patients safely and effectively. With 98% of Guatemalans suffering from dental caries or periodontal disease, reliable equipment is essential. This project will replace core dental equipment in all three modules, improving care quality, increasing patient capacity, and ensuring that access to oral healthcare is a right, not a privilege.

Key Project Activities

1. Procurement of new dental chairs, compressors, sterilizers, ultrasound units, and suction systems for each dental module.

2. Installation and testing of equipment by approved Guatemalan dental suppliers.

3. Monitoring of clinical use to ensure improved service delivery for dental students and patients.

Timeline

Implementation expected to begin upon district grant approval, with an anticipated launch in July 2026.

Budget & Funding

Estimated total cost: $22,500 (three modules at $7,500 each)

Funding needed: $22,500

Support requested from clubs:

• Cash contribution: Any amount appreciated

• DDF allocation: Encouraged to match Bakersfield West Rotary Club's district grant request

Expected Impact

This project will immediately benefit:

• Number of people: Approximately 360–390 patients per month

• Expected outcomes: Improved safety and quality of dental care, increased patient capacity, and enhanced hands-on training for dental students

Club Engagement

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