



Rose Charities International Synopsis and Lunar New Year 2018 Status Report



YEAR OF THE DOG

INTRODUCTION

This report is only partially aimed at outlining the current Rose Charities Network supported programs throughout the world. This year is an anniversary (see below) . Rose Charities remains as strong , active and widespread as it always has. Many organizations come, go or change but Rose Charities has remained fairly constant. It is relevant then to aim this report is equally to review the reason for the success.

The Rose Charities Network is formally in 2018 in its 20th year. Of necessity this is a slight approximation. Original registration in Cambodia is now more than 20 years and one or two of the other organizations a little less. However Rose Charities Canada's falls officially in May 2018 so perhaps can be taken as being the unofficial average of the group !

The targets of Rose are and always have been to build bridges between those who want to give and those who will benefit from accepting , to make better, safer, more productive, meaningful happy and fulfilling lives with less poverty and unaddressed need. The giving does not simply refer to financial support, important as it is, but to expertise, advice, friendship, encouragement, the support of communication, and real care for others who share our moment of time and space. Bridges though are two way structures and Rose supporters and volunteers know that what comes back up them is equal, more or far more than what is given. Such is the nature of the process of helping others.

The name Rose was partly deliberately chosen and maintained (later it could have been changed) as a general symbol of planting, growing and nurturing (the plant element) to produce something beautiful though not specifically linked to any sector (other than in very early days when it was linked to land-mine injury and rehabilitation surgery)

Rose, the independent dog...

2018 is the Year of the Dog. The dog stands for *independence, sincerity, loyalty* and *decisiveness*. Dogs are not afraid of difficulties in daily life and are have harmonious relationships with people all around. Those characteristics are appropriate Most are already well demonstrated in the Rose Charities



network, but in any event are most appropriate to continue to strive for this coming year. In addition, the Chinese zodiac tell us that the lucky numbers for the year include a 9 and one of three lucky flowers, the Rose ! Appropriately then 2018 will see the hosting of the 9th Rose Charities International Conference in Vancouver, a conference which will mark the 20th Year of since registration of Rose Charities Canada.

20 years of continual and successful sustained field operations with no diminishment in levels of activity give an appropriate moment to pause and reflect on the elements which have led to this success. Many organizations in that time have both evolved, peaked then diminished while others have vanished completely or been absorbed into a greater unit. Rose however has maintained, outside sudden flurries of activity that emergency situations tend to bring a constant level of program activity, often with expansion. One reason for this lies with the above zodiac characteristics of the Dog: **independence**. Overall, Rose Charities operations are relatively independent of Government Funding Body and/or corporate grants. Most of the Rose Charities programs have their own individual donor pool and this very much draws on the vital 'fuel' that Rose Charities runs on, namely the strong feelings of connection between an individual donor and the project. Our organization always is aware that the process of so-called 'giving' is a two way street and a donor receives, albeit in the currency of life fulfillment and personal energy as much as they give. Rose Charities is also independent of political, religious or other sectarian agendas though that does not mean that some of its programs are not run with religiously devout people who have the same desire to help where they can

It is this two way process at the level of the individual which also is the element which promotes great **loyalty** to the specific program and by connection to Rose Charities. The focus of association is almost entirely at the most basic ground level and the help or initiatives which are carried out there. That provides is the nutrient of Rose Charities. Rose **sincerity** is obvious. People who assist with Rose activities invariably do so not because of any financial incentive(s) . There is little incentive for joining in the Rose network other than the sincere wish to help where possible . Unlike many other organizations, Rose Charities directors , trustees and organizers of any of the organizing committees draw no salaries, are given no stipends or any travel costs or expenses. 'Remuneration' is entirely by the personal life enhancement in helping

Decisiveness. This is perhaps best seen with Rose Charities in the multiple emergency relief operations which Rose Charities has carried out. Rose Charities is not a natural disaster 'emergency relief' oriented organization. Time and again however it has sent teams or individuals to assist. In all cases there has been a difficult decision making process; what is needed ? Can we actually help ? Who can go to be the most use ? Can we muster the funding ? Can the transport and logistics be arranged such as to help on site and not be a hindrance. Decisiveness has invariably been needed, and often too a high degree of lateral thinking and flexibility Thus, when the airport in Haiti was unusable (partially because of excess piles of supplies and equipment) and too many volunteers trying to arrive, Rose Charities' assistance personnel flew into the connected Dominican Republic and took overland busses into location instead.



While the above paragraphs may cover the official characteristics of the dog, there are also one or two others of considerable relevance to Rose and help to define its success... Flexibility functionality and attention to detail The first two are **functionality and flexibility** . 'Dogs' score highly in both of these, being able to exist and move around through a range of conditions living, moving and thriving functionally in the way they were designed. Rose Charities has a similar flexibility of approach. This starts even with the 'Rose' name. Though it arose by chance and circumstance its generality allows it to move to whatever field it needs without being limited. If, for example, it had been called something like 'Water wells International' or 'Child School Programs..' it would have constrained its function considerably. Rose Charities if depicted as a rose bush actually presents a nice analogue of how it functions. At root level many varied programs have grown or joined in over the years to come together in the main trunk. The branches then spread out both geographically and by sector to give the 'flowers' of assistance programs.

A further aspect is that of **attention to detail**. 'Dogs' use their noses to sniff around for what is interesting, whether large or small. Likewise, Rose Charities' philosophy is one focused on quality and real assistance if necessary only to a few, than large high profile initiatives. There are many 'corporate NGO's who focus on the latter and often do a very good job. However they run on a very different set of criteria to Rose Charities, with salaried (often very high) staff, large publicity and promotion offices and running high cost, prime time, TV commercials. Large scale initiatives are unquestionably necessary but, however well designed, there will always be those who fall between the cracks. There are also an almost infinite number of serious, often life, or livelihood threatening issues which prevail in the lives of people, creatures, the environment, communities, families where help is needed. Many problems of course are not solvable but just the aspects of support and acknowledgement in themselves go a long way. Sometimes too real solutions can be found and often simply, through just talking, listening, understanding and then finally acting. But perhaps the most relevant factor is the fact that a huge number of these issues are not obvious, and especially not obvious to the outsider and even more so to the outsider sitting out of region or out of country looking at other peoples reports or statistics. Yes, it may be that water supply is a big problem in the area, but getting down to a village and talking to the local inhabitants one finds that everyone is terrorized by their children being kidnapped and taken off to be child soldiers. Offering a well will be faintly appreciated, but really what is wanted is protection.

A ROSE'TTA NAMED 'GLOP'..f

Over our 20 year history, Rose Charities has, sometimes by good or just fortuitous planning, sometimes by trial and error and sometimes by disappointment finally evolved a virtually guaranteed formula which will define whether a program or project will succeed. This claim naturally sounds rather inflated, but it actually has never failed to be applicable either through positive or negative results (when, on analysis one can see that the formula was not actually followed or went astray) . In essence, Rose has now, to its own conviction at least an effective 'Rosetta Stone' which will if followed, will totally guarantee the

success of any program and it is by following this, either deliberately or inadvertently which has ensured the success of Rose Charities over 20 years, and hopefully should do so (failing major mishap !) over the next 20. Its name, G.L.O.P.f , an anagram looks somewhat bizarre, but it works.

The ‘f’ word .. There is in fact another in the name, a small ‘f’ at the end GLOPF which stands for ‘funding’ but, contrary to the fact that it is considered the start point of almost every other organization, thinking the usual developed country top-down approach. This is a fundamental difference between most structures and systems in developing countries (and our own, historically) , namely ‘top-down’ as opposed to ‘ground-up’ development. To give an example ;A road is to be built. The ‘top-down’ method (which is 100% utilized in developed countries) consists of a project study, budget, raising funds, planning the engineering, environmental study, materials etc etc. Finally, only finally, the work is done and the road built. In the developing country however there is the ground level need for one village to take things to another. People walk it and a rough track develops. Perhaps some animals are driven along it so it widens and gets churned up. People get bicycles and cant take the areas of mud and bog so some gravel is thrown down . Motorcycles then become obtainable and cheap so they are used and and the traffic increases to both ways. Individuals of villages decide to put some more gravel down to help the trade. Shops open up beside it, selling bottles of petrol/gasoline with or without oil mixed in for the motorcycles. Finally it may be that either the Government or a private company steps in to pave what has already been in operation for years or decades. The point here is that the whole program has been founded almost purely on real need, and on the local enthusiasm and insight to arrange and change things to work for the better.



Exceeding the funding for which the program is 'configured'

Though funding is of course the lubricant which can (though not always) make the wheels of the structure turn better, it is also fantastically corrosive, the creator of delusions (of importance, grandeur, entitlement etc) and the generator of conflict and contention. The wrong amount of it in any situation, (including.. *especially*.. too much) is invariably troublesome. Time and again this is highlighted in the small NGO program which manages suddenly to take the attention of the western media either through something innovative that they are doing or just having the luck (or more realistically, misfortune) though a chance observation, by someone connected to the vast business of selling ‘wow’ . Suddenly the low level cash flow which just about runs the program, albeit at a level which keeps people working planning enthusiastically on how to improve, turns to a huge bursting truckloads with the expectation, either assumed or even, understandably promoted a little by the NGO that this will proportionally scale up the good. Confused and rapid plans are made to try to do so by replication, sudden expansion, purchase of new equipment. Small scale accounting, procurement,

employment protocols, and monitoring and reporting are suddenly required to become big in scale . The original team, (with the best intentions) can't keep up and attempts to suddenly employ personnel more bring in new responsibilities on those without the years of background, new opinions based on a financial rather than a ground level knowledgeable approach , new expectations not necessarily focused on the original well identified needs but seeking to address new ones, real or simply perceived. More often than not, without increased level of monitoring money suddenly appears to have been misspent, not necessarily dishonestly (though excess funds tend to increase the likelihood of dishonesty, or perhaps 'unnecessary' purchases also) . In addition, the giving of hard to resist donations are almost always accompanied by a donor requirement of some often along the lines of a ban on spending on admin costs or salaries, fundamentals to the running of the program. In may cases, the only option left with the large donation is to purchase equipment whether needed or not. Worse, too there are many cases where the new equipment will actually cause harm. Thus, the new photocopier will remove the need to take things down to the old battered photocopy shop on the corner run for low prices (below the cost of ink and paper and electricity of the new machine) by a poor family. Or the new van will replace several old tuk-tuk or motorcycle drivers who run personnel around (and keep them updated with all the useful local 'ground-level' gossip !) .

Donors may also have agendas, stated or not, which need to be followed. These may well be reasonable from the donor end such as generating good profile and publicity (which generates more donations) or ensuring proper 'politically correct' image aimed at future grants. They may be completely valid according to to conceptions or practices which are entrenched in 'the West' in but have not gained equivalent status in the developing country. While they might be deemed desirable (even if not essential to quality of life for all), rigid adherence to them may effectively make the program unworkable. Yet if they are ignored or not reported the NGO immediately make themselves guilty of deception. Then, finally after all the problems of sudden unplanned wealth, actual field outputs may have found to have changed very little or, worst the relationship of the program with the field recipients become seriously corrupted though financially generated power jealousies or the replacement of old loyal personnel reluctant to 'modernize' practices with new of very different motivation .

Needy ground 'G'

'G' is for ground-level need. That is real need, need as seen by the people who live it or experience it or fear it or spend all or a large part of their lives fighting against it or trying and trying themselves to put it right. Though it may coincide with them, it is usually not the need(s) perceived by planners, statisticians or visitors. Imagine the inhabitants of a hugely advanced planet studying our cities to help us. Their statistics tell them that that we drive too fast in our dangerous low tech vehicles: and have accidents. Their planners work out a huge program to educate



Ground level need (Rose Rehab Cambodia)

us to drive slower with plans to change road signs etc. Their spaceship arrives in a blaze of glory with withwith all its wonderful technology. They are greeted though by the deputy Mayor with an apology. The major is in hospital dying of suddenly pancreatic cancer . ‘Oh That’ say the aliens, that’s nothing much at all, easy to cure, but we’re not here to do that, we’re here to teach you to drive more slowly, its what our funds are for so we’d like to start please and not worry about the Mayor or any others with those trivial problems. The point with this is that the need really has to be the real need identified, possibly after some information delivery (which is part of the ground level process) to help empower knowledge to the people themselves and not a need perceived purely through through a possibly translucent firewall diffused with other agendas conceived in an office in a city far away

The golden ‘L’

Of the four (or five) parameter of the mnemonic, there is no question that **‘L’ for leadership** is considerably the most important. Moreover it should by far the best be the Welsh two small ‘ll’s standing for ‘local leadership’ though there can be exception with this for others who are linked with the



Leadership ! (Neonatal Resuscitation Training Program Haiti)

area, the problem or have some other real, concerned stake. While it would be possible to list all sorts of theoretical reasons for the need to have the best possible involved, stake-holding leadership, it is from the 100% hands-on practical experience over years of program management, development, and running, the single most important factor in the successful operation and sustaining of a program bar none. It is universally true to say that Rose programs which have had good local or locally involved leaders have worked, worked well and continued to work, while others where the leadership has not been strong and effective have not.

Its as simple as that. The only reason it is not number one in the mnenmic letters is that it does not then make up the catchy word ‘GLOP’ ! ie. LGOP is not nearly so memorable.

‘O’wners rule

‘O’ is for ownership and that is local ownership. If local recipients and stakeholders do not have ownership, ie local decision making in the running, development, extension, planning and implementation process then the program has simply been ‘imposed’ . While it may work while or long term it means that almost from the outset the spirit of ‘you and us’ develops. This starts the program down the road to lack of motivation, concepts of exploitation (either too much or too little in terms of perceived fair remuneration to staff) .



Owners rule ! (Community programs Haiti)

The idea may develop that the program somehow is not there for the local good, rather than the operatives. There is, a matter of degree in this area, and it is quite possible to operate in a condition of divided responsibility of who makes the decision (local or distant etc) but whatever the scenario, it is vitally important that all are totally informed of the any particular decision with full explanation, (including any necessary education to get to decision point) . This, is, itself part of the vital ‘ownership’ criterion.

We all need need a ‘P’artner



Rose Cambodia and NZ long term friends and program partners !

Any project needs partners and any project support organization, group or individual themselves also needs the partnership process .. The energy of supporting ,developing and running a project is a (usually zero-sum) two-way progress. What comes out is exactly the same as what is put in though the ‘currency’ in each direction is partially or completely different. What is put in is initial expertise and/or training materials, funds, structure and what comes back is enhancement of life, ‘feel good’ , friendship and creativity. For many at the supporter end these last qualities actually can considerably outweigh the material input so it is pivotally important to involve any supporters as directly as

possible in the processes of project planning and implementation. Some of the worst possible policies in this respect are sometimes demonstrated by large ‘corporate’ NGO’s’ where one department hardly knows what the other is doing, decision making is not explained, just given as a fait accomplis and individuals are asked to give support almost in isolation knowing little of the pathway or distribution of their support. Where partnership is most vital though is at the field or project end. This may actually be minimally about financial or materials support (ie see page 2); far more the sheer knowledge that there is a group or organization overseas (often perceived to be a place where things rightly or wrongly are organized ‘properly’ at high material and expertise level) which is there in continuing support or friendship, and maintains a group with great interest in the program and is concerned with its results and its outcomes. In every Rose program partnership plays a huge role and regular visits to the programs simply for friendship as well as joint planning discussions are vital aspects in their success This may even though few or no funds or materials may be forthcoming (depending as they are on donor generation) . At the same time, such visits bring back information and the renew enthusiasm of the support group . The remarkable rise in electronic communications such as facebook and/or skype has greatly assisted the partnership process though it still and probably never will replace face to face human contact.

ROSE AROUND THE WORLD

Introduction

The Rose Charities International Networks's links with programs around the world vary considerably forming far more of a spectrum than one or two specific formats. Thus, Rose organizations may be locally registered in their specific countries and running their own direct, coordinated, shared or simply fund and material supported programs. Such examples are Rose Charities Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore. These may also have partial overseas involvement, often depending on a particular situation, like support for a natural disaster. For some locally registered Rose Charities organizations, such as Canada, UK, New Zealand and the USA, focus from around 90% (NZ, Canada) to their entire efforts (UK, USA) are aimed at the support of overseas programs. Other scenarios consist of aid in material and/or training support to shared programs or programs carried out under a different, local name by 'agency agreements' where one or more specific aspects of the program, or even the whole program itself is the target of the assistance. Finally there are the 'mission' or 'visit' types of program where team or teams for training or emergency relief are sent in to a location either on a single, but far more usually a repeat basis. Examples of this is the Rose Charities Safe Birthing group running out of Salmon Arm B.C. which has undertaken a very successful and steadily expanding birth training in rural Guatemala for many years, or the equally impressive Rose Charities NZ eye surgical training missions to Cambodia resulting functionally in its most important eye hospital with standards comparable to anywhere in the world which both provides training as well as treatment for the poor. Some foci too are rather specialized but are so for reason of the specific interest of the Rose Charities Program leader or organizers. Thus the N'goma Doce Music Academy in Zambia which assists poor children be involved with classical music is supported by Ms Heidi Krutzen, one of the worlds leading classical harpists, or similarly the Sistema Aotearoa Youth Orchestra which includes many children from the Pacific Polynesia, other islands and NZ. A urology program in Uganda for elderly men (who are often forgotten in the current day foci of publicized needs) has been founded by Professor Andrew Macnab who is a Urology Consultant at UBC, Vancouver, and a microcredit program in Sri Lanka developed by an Vancouver philanthropist and businessman, Mr Lawrence Keenan. In short, the philosophy of Rose is to simply include what works, regardless of under whose name it is, in what category it falls, or where it it might lie geographically. Need is need, and need is everywhere and often also in places where it has supposed



Drs Macnab (Canada) and Mutabezi (Uganda) confer in rural Uganda

to have been eliminated through social programs or other large scale initiatives. Fulfilling the need, or even trying to the best ability is the process of building the bridge which carries care, support, hope and help in one direction and then in a different way, the same things back again with enormous life enhancement.....

What follows is a very brief summary of the main works of the Rose Charities ‘family’ around the world. Virtually all of them could be expanded into far more detailed pages than are given here so, for reasons of brevity, only outlines are given.

Oceania:

Rose Charities New Zealand continues to support both local NZ organization in the areas of youth assistance including music in the Sistema Aotearoa youth orchestra, new immigrant education, disability assistance etc. The Sistema Youth Orchestra support in particular has expanded with the purchase of instruments for the young players.



Sistema Aotearoa Youth Orchestra NZ

Rose NZ’s international work though has been little short of fantastic in terms of support for *Rose Charities Cambodia’s* eye program founded and directed by Dr Hang Vra. Having provided a considerable amount of equipment, expertise, training and other support the symbiosis between the two countries has resulted in modern superbly run eye facilities as well as a special facility for treatment of the poor (and others), with identical high standards. The number of patients treated to date is around three quarters of a million. The Unit is now self sustaining effectively operating on the well tried and



Rose NZ truck donated to Rose Cambodia

tested system of those who can pay subsidizing free or low cost services for those who are unable to. Both an outreach program as well so optometric / refraction services are offered and training for new eye surgeons and other health and admin personnel. *Rose Charities Canada* continues to provide some support where possible aimed at helping the sight restoration, blindness prevention and refraction (glasses) services for the poor. Rose Charities NZ board member Mr Mike Webber (NZOrderMerit)(Charity Rose Laureate 2007), Whanganui, and Mr John Veale, Christchurch, have been right at the forefront of the success of this

program. Rose Charities NZ is chaired by Ms Nicola Thomas who has provides fine leadership having taken over last year from acclaimed author Trish Gribben . Jane and John Midgley contine to donate which huge generosity financial management support.

The planned initiative a child E.N.T (ear nose and throat) health initiative for *Samoa* is progressing with the purchase of a set of high quality surgical instruments as advised by the well known NZ and Samoan surgeon Dr P.J. Famui who is assisting implementation. This initiative has been named *Project Toolkit* and will be expanded over the next years.



John Veale, Jane Midgley, Will Grut, Trish Gribben, Pip Neville-Barton, Nicola Thomas (Chair) , Mike Webber: Rose NZ Board

Rose Charities New Zealand has also been helping with Nepal community village program founded by Ms Sarala Adhikari also with assistance of Rose Charities Canada. The NZ contribution has been in educational infrastructure, specifically refurbishment of the local school and purchase of educational materials. New Zealand and Nepal have a special relationship in many areas dating back to the work of Sir Edmund Hilary with his Himalayan Hospitals initiative.

Finally the support of the work of Dr Liese Groot-Alberts a specialized bereavement and post-trauma counsellor must be mentioned. Liese has and continues to carry out amazing work in post disaster areas as well as with the terminally ill, and teaching and instructing, in Malaysia, Singapore, India the Philippines and Samoa.

South East Asia :

Rose Charities organizations exist in Singapore, Malaysia, and Cambodia but field programs run not only in these countries but also in *Vietnam*, and (until recently but now completed) ***Thailand*** and the ***Philippines***. Continuation reconstruction and disability assistance work in the Philippines was considerable with supplying and fitting solar lighting, purchasing water filters, building repair, and ‘making wheelchairs for the disabled and boats for fishermen. All has been carried out with Rose Charities partners, ***the Bacalod Rotary in Negros Province*** . In ***Thailand***, a new wing of a school situated on the Thai-Myanmar boarder, the Baan Mae Ramoeng School, tending largely to the children of internally displaced people was completed working through contacts with the Thai Consulate in

Vancouver and the Richond B.C Organization C.I.E.A.F as well as the Thai ‘ Princess Sirindhorn's Project Group in Thailand itself

Rose Charities Singapore is a very self contained and enormously charitable group which focuses mostly on local assistance in homes (old peoples, orphanages etc.) but extending regionally in the event of disasters. For the Nepal Earthquake of April 2015, Rose Charities Singapore was the first Rose organization to find and work with local Nepalese Partners (Kopan Buddhist Monastery) to enable material distributions to commence within hours Organized by Chair Ms Christina Leong, with assistance of Mr Dixon Ho and others their group spends most weekends in volunteer charitable endeavours or raising support funds for their multiple creditable initiatives.



Rose Singapore charity: a volunteer fascinates a child with her smart-phone during an emergency relief mission

Rose Charities Malaysia runs out of George Town, Penang where it is state registered. Chair of Rose Charities Malaysia is Dato’ (Sir) Lawrence Cheah who is also Chair of the *Rose Charities International Council*. In mid 2016, Mr Cheah, to the honour of the whole Rose Charities Network, received his Malaysian ‘kighthood’ to become a ‘Datuk’ for his amazing charitable work within which Rose Charities Malaysia is just one component. Organized in addition by Mr Vince Yeoh, and many others, *Rose Charities Malaysia* carries out a host of major local initiatives assisting hundreds to thousands of the old and disabled, health promotion and worthy community activities. In addition health screening is



Dato' Lawrence Rose Malaysia assists a Penang senior

occasionally taken to the mainland . which form the backbone of the Malay Peninsular and where dwell the original ancient ‘aboriginal’ people known as the “*Orang Asli*” . Many of the Orang Asli groups are very poor and badly in need of health initiatives. There has also been some involvement in health initiatives in Sarawak in conjunction with one of the local Lions Clubs in

that region

Rose Charities Cambodia, the oldest organization of the Rose Charities network (reg circa 1997) is a formally locally registered organization directed by Dr's Vra and Natalia Hang as a charitable branch of their Eye Hospital. This has already been mentioned in the 'Oceania' section above but it is relevant here to mention that program has been one of the most impressive and successful programs in the whole of Rose Charities. Initially as a small, almost cataract only facility in 1997, the program was majorly vandalized and looted in 2003, losing all



Drs Vra and Natalia Hang: amazing Directors (and founders) of their Rose Charities Cambodia Eye Hospital



Dr Vra with Dr Muhammad Khalid (Rose NZ) examine a patient with a slit lamp.

equipment and materials, its one vehicle and even fittings from the walls. It seemed that the program would certainly close. However Dr Vra simply refused to be deterred, for weeks turning up to the gutted shell on his motorcycle to console the patients who kept arriving and tell them to come back again. And gradually with the help of both NZ and Canada, as well as visiting Nepalese surgeons, notably Dr Basant Raj Sharma and Ophthalmic Nurse Ms Sarala Adhikiri, the clinic both re-established then progressed forward to the advanced facility which it is now.

Rehabilitation Centre program of training and treatment at Chea Chumneas Hospital in Takmao has now been transferred to hospital management. It had a leading role initially in promoting the not well known benefits of physiotherapy much to a poor, significantly rural population convinced that pills, surgery and iv infusions are the only advantages of western medicine. Excellently managed first by Ms Sophak Chim and later by Mrs Theary Chuun, succeeded admirably both in establishing the realization of the benefits of physiotherapy (as shown by the steadily increasing numbers of patients who present for free or low cost treatment) treating and training. . Rose Charities NY - USA had been pivotal with this program in

Also in Cambodia the **RCRC or Rose Cambodia**



Village screening for disability by RCRC team (incl Joanna Thomson – Rose Australia)

providing almost all its support.

Every year **Rose Charities NY** holds an annual and hugely popular (not to say bitterly contested) street



Rose Charities NY, USA annual charity street hockey match. Rose Charities USA founder and Chair Rachel Greene (center)

hockey (ice hockey played with shoes not skates on streets or recreational areas - very popular in North America). It is superbly organized, generates enormous enjoyment, heavily subscribed and entry fees and sales of merchandise raise the funds for Rose program(s). Funds from this will continue to be generated but at the time of writing Rose Charities NY is deciding were these will be directed.

In passing it should be mentioned that Cambodia has a **Cambodia Physical Therapy Association**

which carries out physiotherapy in a number of areas and was supported in 2017 and now in 2018 with some financial

input for the training programs *by Rose Charities Canada's Hillman Fund* .

As a continuation or replacement of the community screening of the RCRC, Rose Charities Canada is assisting Ms Sophak Chim's newly founded (in conjunction with Ms Sao Rathana Phoeurk village and community support program named '**Snadai Khmer**' ('Cambodian Achievement'). One of Rose Charities supported concepts is that of general support in wherever assistance may be given to a specific village. With this model, that particular village can serve as a role model for others surrounding and the advantages seeded into a particular area. It follows naturally from the realization that progress must of necessity go on on many fronts, health, education, income generation and poverty reduction. All of these aspects and others are in fact interlinked and if one is not addressed it will seriously hold all development and improvement in quality of life back The Snadai Khmer program has commenced by assisting two communities, one in Kompong Thom Province and the other in Takeo Province. While the work is at initial planning and early implementation stages, education support and womens assistance has already been commenced. In addition a student has been selected to be assisted in higher education (dress design) by the new **Rose Charities UK 'Education for Leadership' program**

Finally **Operation First**, the rehabilitation surgical charitable organization established by Professor Nous Sarom (Charity-Rose Laureate for 2006), from the *previous Rose Charities Rehab Surgery program*, and the senior member of the local Rose Charities Cambodia programs continues to identify and provide surgery to poor patients in need of rehabilitative procedures such as cleft lip and palate, burns, tendon releases etc. This program is now an arm of Professor Saroms main work as head of surgery in *PPSC Hospital Phnom Penh*. On a number of occasions it has hosted international cleft lip and palate

and/or burns surgical teams, such as Operation Rainbow, Canada and various groups from Singapore and other countries



Dr Nous Sarom of Operation-First fixes a cleft palate

Although the original Rose Charities Canada organization in **Vietnam** has now been disbanded for logistical reasons, program assistance continues in Vietnam through financial and material support largely directed through Mrs Theresa Pham and her husband Alan, Vancouver, Canada.

The **Sia Blind Center**, near Hue continues its excellent programs of vocational training, education and small income generating projects. **The Mei Hoa Aids Hospice** is another recipient of funds donation through Rose Charities Canada as well as directly from Theresa and Alan who have assisted in



Residents of the Sia Blind Centre making incense

purchasing a generator as well as other materials/equipment. This hospice does amazing work in an area of very great need. Finally the **Thien Phuoc Orphanage** is assisted where possible, a long term involvement of the Phams . In addition **Rose Charities UK** has for many years assisted the **Be Tho Orphanage** also on the outskirts of Ho Chi Min City through previous generous donations largely from the UK based Olive Bonas Company. Generous assistance in monitoring and implementing has been given by Mr Phuoc, the 2007 Charity Rose Laureate and father of the original Rose Charities Vietnam co-founder, Mr Louis Lap Nguyen .

S.Asia and Afghanistan

Rose Charities Sri Lanka has, since its local registration 2 years after the terrible Boxing Day 2004 Asian Tsunami carried out huge amounts of work in many sectors, health, education, community development and the work now continues successfully in microcredit and also in health delivery and a small component in early childhood education. The outstanding direction of Mr Richard Anthony assisted by Mr Rajeeshan have always provided the leadership



Rose Sri Lanka's popular founder talks to pre-school kids in one of their schools

in all areas of its development though generously supported by Lawrence Keenan and Dr Yoga Yogendran in Vancouver and other members of the Rose Canada SL support committee. Health care delivery Kalmunai is provided through a local health clinic where local consultants and physicians offer low cost consultations and treatments.

In **Afghanistan**, Rose Charities continues working very closely with Dr Wais Aria and his **Tabish Community Health and Assistance Organization**. Current focus is on large safe birthing and family planing program. Tabish's long term experience in community assistance is vital for this program as there are many very sensitive areas in Afghan society which interface into this area, including male and religious inclusion, health and economic issues. It is not uncommon for girls barely out of their teenage years already to have families of four to six children and this can be a great source of hardship for all. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this program for the well-being of community life.



Afghan mothers

Rose Charities efforts in **Nepal** have been a long continuation of the emergency relief assistance carried on into reconstruction and development and this has now been carried on into community support similar both in concept to Snadai Khmer (see above). One early realization of Rose Charities organizers has been that emergency and disaster situations invariably leave results which to on for years and



New home building in post earthquake Nepal

decades. Some organizations have a tendency to use them for their fund-raising profile and just rush in and out within months. Rose Charities has always tried very hard to follow through for the long term, albeit in its emergency relief efforts. The Nepal programs have almost entirely been made possible by the outstanding assistance Ms Sarala Adhirkiri. Ms Sarala, has had long association with Rose Charities, originally assisting in our early days of eye surgery in Cambodia (often to

distant eye camps) where she, as an ophthalmic trained came to assist. Support for reconstruction of AMDA Nepal program of toilets for two schools in *Ghorika* (one of the devastated areas north of Kathmandu) has now been completed, benefiting around 900 people. Emergency preparedness workshops for the local people have also been held.

Ms Sarala Adhikari's work however has been in **Kopu village, Daxinkali** in the Kathmandu valley where three new homes were constructed, supervised and further materials distributed. In addition **Rose Charities New Zealand** provided funds for reconstruction assistance to the local school to repair its earthquake damage. The reconstruction work will continue on now into 2018, there having been established of a reconstruction assistance fund which will assist where possible with specific aspects of peoples attempts to reconstruct themselves.



Ms Sarala Adhikari Nepal

(assistance need for this are still great). A special mention is made here of the generosity of the Gomersall Family of Hongkong as it is a small example of the acts of generosity which make Rose Charities work. Around the time of the disaster one of the Gomersall children was awarded a scholarship to go to college, so the Gomersalls donated the equivalent amount they would have paid to Rose Charities for assistance programs. Now in 2018 The Gomersalls have once again been generous contributors to this program

Caribbean (Haiti) , Central and South America

All the Rose Charities Caribbean, Central and South America programs fall entirely under Rose Charities Canada, **Guatemala** is the location of two very successful Rose Charities projects, one in education and one safe birthing. **The Mayan School**, founded and run by Dr Ellen Coburn provides high quality education to mainly poor Mayan children of all ages with sponsorship on to higher education, The **Safe Motherhood Guatemala program** was founded and run by Annette Borkent and Dr Ruth Brighthouse of **Salmon Arm B.C** and has not only established itself as fulfilling a hugely needed training role, both with local authorities and the people of the area



Anne Borkent teaching safe birthing Guatemala

The **Projecto San Gerado Programs in Costa Rica** founded and run by Jenny Moss and husband Pedro are community based and cover education, focusing on English teaching, income generation, womens group and youth. The 2015 Rose Charities International Meeting was hosted in San Gerado and was very successful being attended both by government agencies as well as local leaders and organizers



Projecto San Gerado Costa Rica Womens Group

The **Uno a Uno Program in Ecuador** is focused on both educating as well as providing income generation both for workers and the project by teaching Spanish largely to expatriates. Founded by Candace Cho and Pierre Banville, the program became part of Rose Charities Canada some two years ago and were able in 2016 to provide the pathway and local networks needed to be allow Rose Charities, together with *AMDA Canada* to send support to the Ecuador Earthquake of April 2016. This support had been raised both by spontaneous donors but also by one more of the Rose-AMDA classical music concerts organized by Ms Sue Ishii and Ms Mari Miyasaka and helpers. In this instance, piano virtuoso Ms Rutsuko Yamagishi came again to Vancouver specifically to perform, and the proceeds went both to the earthquakes of *Ecuador as well as Kumamoto (April 2016)*. With these funds, local medical assistance was provided in Japan and equipment to help cooking for those in need in the Ecuador disaster.



Pianist Rutsuko Yamagichi (Japan), flautist Chieko Konishi, with AMDA Rose Canada organizing committee

Mexico. At the time of writing a new cooperation program is in pre-planning stage in Central West Mexico in Jalisco State. While exact assistance areas are yet to be decided, the program is together with the local *IFC* (International Friends Committee) group and is most likely to be in assistance with cleft lip and palate repair for poor children or womens empowerment group(s) .

Haiti : Rose Charities association (particularly Rose Charities Canada) with Haiti started with emergency relief efforts, initially in conjunction with *AMDA International*, then independently, after the terrible earthquake of January 2010. Multiple medical assistance teams were sent usually travelling by road in



Karen Schafer teaches her Haiti neonatal resuscitation program Port au Prince trained and many neonatal lives saved.

from the Dominican Republic (as the Haiti main airport was clogged with fundraising relief materials from other organizations and governments. The Rose teams focused initially medical, surgical and pediatric relief but shifted more more and more in on assisting the re-establishment of neonatal nursing facilities. The current **Rose Haiti Neonatal Resuscitation Program**, established and superbly managed by Karan Schafer continues to this day at the Adventist Hospital, Port au Prince with Karen both instructing in Haiti as well has helping raise support in Vancouver. Over 100 specialist nurses have now been

The other current Haiti program is focused on *Youth and Community assistance* . Initially this Miragoane area but for logistical reasons has recently moved more south to Jacmel . Founded by Jean Lubin and his wife Terri, the program carries out impressive programs in sports for youth, education and income generation projects assisting daily in an area of extreme need. After the recent ‘Hurricane Matthew’ of October 2016, the Miragoane Program joined with other organizations to help distribute food and materials to the poor and in need work that has continued almost to this day.

Africa.

Rose Charities direct or supported programs are ongoing in **Uganda, Kenya, Madagascar and Zambia**. A past program also in Rwanda has now terminated.

Uganda, Although there is some interchange and/or sharing of support, the programs run under a number of different groupings and as follows..

Stand Tall Education founded and led by Vancouver's Schouela (2015 Charity-Rose Laureate) is a superb school in the outskirts of Kampala mostly for the poor which specifically trains for initiative and leadership and training over 100 children. This school runs a



Images from the Stand Tall School, Kampala

curriculum of novel landmark programs which stress creativity, empowerment , team dynamics completely different from traditional ‘rote-learning’ methods and so has created an inclusive landmark facility of a type which can greatly define the future of Uganda as a modern and equitable nation .



Volset School kids at well

Another school also of around 100 children project is runs under the name **Volset** in a more rural setting some 60km east of the city run locally by Mr Festus and Ms Grace Irimu but with Vancouver support from Roger Huguye who has generally put considerable personal resources into its infrastructure.

Brighter Smiles founded and run by Dr Andrew Macnab of Vancouver (Charity Rose Laureate 2013), initially ran a school but this program has become independent. Dr Andrew Macnab has now switched to concentrating on specialized areas particularly in health with programs in 'health promoting schools', school high nutrition gardens, school early malaria diagnosis and detection and rural male seniors urological assistance program. Some of these programs are run in conjunction or with the assistance of the 'HEADA' (Health and Development Agency) Organization and/or the Department of Family



Dr's Andrew and Mutabeze aind head mistress at school high-nutrition garden

Medicine, Makerere University. Of particular note is the early malaria detection which has been giving excellent documented and now published results. In

this now enormously popular program teachers are selected to run 'kit test' immunofluorescent early diagnostic test on children showing early symptoms of malaria, and the appropriate artemesinin based treatment commenced. With this method children can be better within hours, rather than the days or weeks with later diagnosis, and this cuts down the hated (by the children) absentee time improving their results considerably.

Rose Charities Canada's HMEF (Hillman Medical Education Fund), a legacy fund running within Rose Charities Canada with its own Committee Chaired by Dr Joanne Young, was set up from specific legacy donation(s) by Professor Elizabeth Hillman (Order of Canada) with aim to promote medical education and other associated endeavours. It has been involved in many programs over the years both in Africa (Uganda and Kena) as well as Pakistan (now terminated) and Cambodia. In **Kenya** it originally sponsored an emergency training 'ETATS' course for doctors working in rural areas. Later, it also sponsored the 'Smart Moms' World Breastfeeding Week which focused on groups of 98 women in a hospital in Kenya In Uganda it has tended to work closely both with other Rose groups, specifically Dr Andrew Macnab / Brighter Smiles and local organizations too. In Canada is is one of the most active of the Rose Committees and important to the output of the whole organization, particularly in Africa.



Dr Joanne Young with Dr Andrew Macnab and children on the malaria early school diagnosis program



Promoting early school malaria diagnosis and treatment: singing and dancing are very much part of the show !

Not to be confused with Brighter Smiles is the **'Smiles Uganda' Program** organization founded by Mr Galib Kara of the Rose Charities Canada Board. Smiles concentrates on supporting education, originally in almost all ages though is switching more to secondary education. It is also now being assisted **by Rose Charities UK** which targets specifically the area of 'Education for Leadership'. Rose Charities UK's new board member Khalid Virani has continued

Programs in Uganda are thus varied and multiple, covering a number of areas. The 2016 8th Rose Charities International Meeting was held in

Kampala in April and was hugely successful with full house attendance from local delegates, excellently supported by international members of the Rose family (albeit mostly Canada. Yet again as with almost every other Rose Charities International meeting, its orchestration was superbly carried out by Linda Roberts (Charity Rose Laureate for 2014) Following the meeting most of the international delegates journeyed to the Mbarara area of West Uganda to see some of the Brighter Smiles, HMEF, HEADA programs (early malaria diagnosis/treatment in schools), urology, nutrition as well as organize a small regional meeting there.

Rose Charities programs in **Zambia** are through its **Malambo Grassroots** Committee put together by Jocelyn Banyard and world renowned classical harpist Heidi Krutzen (of Canada), ably assisted by Sarah Taylor. The original programs though in Zambia were founded by by Jocelyn's aunt Thea Savory and other members of her family. These rurally based programs in the Monze area have, over the years covered the areas of health, income generation and education assisting wherever possible the local communities of the area. In addition, because of Heidi's interest (and ability !) in music, much support has been directed to the Zambian **Ngoma Docle Music school** to assist talented young musicians. In passing the conceptual link is well noted with Rose Charities NZ assistance to the Sistema Aotearoa Youth Orchestra which also has the roll of assisting up and coming young classical musicians.



Young music student at Ngoma Dolce school. Zambia

Madagascar: support is given through the Rose Madagascar committee to the community in Tsarahonenana about 350 km from the capital and especially to the school with takes over 100 children



of all ages. Organized and run by Mr Bina Andriamanjato in Madagascar, at the Candaian end Luke King, Emma Noble and Ashlee King are the main main support team in Canada. Every year they print a calander which is sold to raise funds to help the program.

UK, North America and Europe

Rose Charities UK (Rose Rehabilitation Trust) and Rose Charities NY are the two main hubs of the Rose Charities Family in the UK and USA respectively. *Rose Charities UK* has a board of 7 directors and traditionally has concentrated on fund-raising initiatives targeted for Rose Charities projects in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan as well as several of the Rose Charities Emergency relief activities. Two years ago however an '**Education for Leadership (E4L)** Program was founded to assist talented students with more expensive and difficult to attain University and/or Training College places. Starting initially with the Smiles program in Uganda, it has now extended to Cambodia and Nepal is planned in the near future as well as incorporation with some current Sri Lanka sponsorships

There are no registered Rose Charities Organizations in Europe, though some very loyal supporters, including **the Cortes de Cima Vinyards** in Portugal, owned and run by Carrie and Hans Jorgensen, who have been very generous in sponsoring events with provision of quantities of their fine wines.

Rose Charities NY USA operates in a similar way to *Rose Charities UK* though through the efforts of Chair Ms Rachel Greene has now established an annual very popular and successful fund-raising event which is a street-hockey (ice hockey style played in shoes) event held usually in late April. Rose Charities NY's target program has until the present time been RCRC (Rose Charities Rehab Centre) in Cambodia though with the termination of the RCRC program will in future

will be targeted elsewhere.

Rose Charities Canada, is the largest of the hub

Rose Charities Organizations is having been the first outside Cambodia to have been registered (May 1999) and now with many local volunteers and committees. Its modus operandi is through these committees with each being responsible for it own, usually geographically oriented area of programs .



Jan Johnston (Vietnam/Canada) attends a Rose Charities art exhibition fundraiser at the Milk Gallery N.Y

Some however, such as the Hillman Medical Education Fund (HMEF) work more towards a focus, that of medical education and health promotion often through human resource development and thus run or support programs both in Asia as well as Africa.

The Rose- HMEF Committee is ably chaired by Dr Joane Young and Mr Craig Keeting. Other committees have structural and operational function for the running of the main Rose Charities Canada organization, such as the Finance Committee, the Web Committee, and Accountability Committee. This committee system allows for the inclusion of experts, consultants etc who are not directors onto the main board to advise.

Other committees or groups which Rose Charities Canada incorporates only come together for specific



Emergency Relief: Dr Pargat Bhurji Singh in Haiti, Dr Collin Yong in Negros Philippines

purposes such as Emergency Relief when disaster strikes. Here, Rose Charities Canada is fortunate to have closely associated Dr Collin Yong, an honorary member of its main board who both a consultant pediatrician as well as having formidable hands-on experience in disaster relief with Rose

Charities and close partner AMDA teams. Dr Pargat Bhurji Singh

likewise has great experience and often generously helps in disaster relief situations. Both Drs Yong and Bhurji have not only directed missions but also been responsible for a considerable amount of fundraising for the particular mission and/or later follow up.

One 'intermittent' committee is the AMDA Committee consists of members of the Canadian branch of AMDA (a major Japanese Emergency Relief, Aid and Peace Ms Tsuneko ('Sue') Ishii and Ms Mari Miyasaka are pivotal in the work of this group which helps recruit the close knit ethnic Japanese Canadian community in Vancouver to come together for a classical music concert performed by a leading Japanese virtuosos. These have included pianist Ms Rutsuko Yamagishi and classical guitarist and composer. Yoshinobu Iwanaga. Starting at the time of the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, the concerts have continued and have provided considerable funding for both the AMDA Tohoku Health Clinic as well as assistance in the Ecuador and Kumamoto disasters of this year. Often the events have been held in the main Christ Church Cathedral in central Vancouver. The group also functions autonomously (ie events other than assisted by Rose Charities). In 2017 a similar concert in the series was organized to help local B.C. victims of the summer forest fires.

Chair of Rose Charities Canada is Mrs Maggie Francis, Vice Chair Ms Nicole Schoeula (founder of Stand Tall Education, <see Africa above>



The Charity Rose Award This award is for ourstanding charitable contribution in personal effort for the benefit of others. It is the only award which Rose Charities confers and is the ultimate accolade of Rose Charities. There is only one recipient per year so the awardee 'owns' that year as well. There are no strict rules or regulations and the award may be given either within or outside Rose Charities. However over the years Rose Charities has, and continues to have within its family so many outstanding and deserving people that there has never been any need to look outside. Selection is by discussion and/or election by the major international organizers.

2018 Rose Charities 9th and 20 year Anniversary Meeting. Vancouver, April 21-26th

Rose Charities over the years has organized a number of international meetings or conferences. To date these total 8 having been held in Penang (x2) , Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh, Kalmunai , Kampala (x2) and San Gerado (Costa Rica) respectively. While it is generally not in the character of most Rose Charities organizations to seek high profile expensive 'prestige meetings' it has nevertheless been found that the fact of getting Rose organizers, volunteers, planners and consultants together results initiatives which result in greater or lesser time to the generation of plans, project and assistances which help mankind. There has never been a Rose Charities meeting where one has not been able to trace a new initiative in part of whole to contacts and networking made at that meeting. This year of 2018 will see the 9th Rose Charities Internatinonal Meeting held in Rose Charities Canada's home city of Vancouver. www.rosecanada.info/conference The meeting will be held over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd April in central Vancouver with a further workgroup in Whistler.

SUMMARY

Rose Charities is an oranization which has grown organically not by specific design. Its focus has always been, and remains concentrated on quality, efficacy, cost effectiveness (ie minimizing administrative waste, often down to zero) and working with the genuine desire of people to help our fellow men, women and children. While it is not greatly acknowledged it is absolutely clear that the process works always in two ways, all parties gain as much as they give and this creates a symbiotic effect which can benefit the needs of everyone. If there is one focus for Rose Charities it is to faciliate and build bridges, both between those 'have' in term of materials, skills or education, to those who have not. The bridges however carry far more than those things just mentioned, they allow the interchange of friendship, understanding, mutual education, and humanity between widely diverse peoples on our planet. Sadly



there seems to be a tendency in our time for walls to be put up resulting in isolationism and mistrust. It is only by striving to create links and bridges that this can ever have hope of being overcome.

This is a New Year report, but a New Year report, one must first choose which New Year. ! Being a secular, international organization our array of programs, sibling, partner organizations, volunteers, directors cover at least five of them, Gregorian, Lunar (Chinese), Islamic, Khmer, Hindu, Jewish etc. All have their traditions and customs many of which define wonderfully the peoples who celebrate them. It is part of the wonderful kaleidoscopic panoply of mankind. Though hugely meaningful though these differences are only as superficial essentially we are all the same in our desire to live peaceful productive lives. The 'Lunar' or 'Chinese' New Year (also Tet in Vietnam) turns out to be an excellent

““ What two people have in common will always, in all cases, be larger than what differentiates them” .. John Berger

choice in terms of date and also its philosophy of looking at the oncoming year as more than just a number. Similarly the Rose Charities 'family' and all it gives, receives, plans and implements, networks, links and organizes is far greater than just a list of materials delivered or funds raised and spent. Were it simply those aspects it is unlikely to have lasted, thrived and continually discovered new areas with which to coordinate and link. A far better analogy would be that of a living, sensing and feeling entity responding , or trying to find ways to respond to the ebb and flows of human condition where they encroach, or reaching out to seek them. Let this report once more celebrate all our Rose volunteers, helpers, organizers and and equally those to where the Rose bridges span.

William N. Grut MD. Feb 2018 Vancouver, Canada

General Exec. Sec Rose Charities International ,

