

Standards to Visit and Speak to Cedar Rapids Rotary West Club

Partners with Rotary West in Water Project for Ghana Village

November 14, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At the Rotary West meeting on November 20, Gilbert Leibel, Rotary Club of Accra-East, Ghana and Emmanuel Sissuh, the project contractor in Ghana, will discuss "Ghana Water Project: A First-Hand Update."

Cedar Rapids Rotary West has raised \$36,000 over the past several years to create a water distribution system for the village of Ave-Afiadenyigba. Clean drinking water will be pumped from a well and stored in tanks to be distributed to the 8,000 people living in various communities within the large spread out village when the project is completed. This is critical because it will allow girls to go to school rather than spend their day carrying water home and will eliminate disease caused by unclean water sources.

The project was conceived by Rotary West member John Mack who was enticed in 2008 by a missionary priest visiting the United States to travel to Ghana to see the need he described in the village he grew up in first hand. It's quite a story. John was met by the entire village when he arrived, treated like the most important person they'd ever met and, in fact, appointed chief of the village, only the fifth chief they've had since prehistory days. John returned to Cedar Rapids to find the city flooded, much like the village he had just left had been. Inspired, he presented the idea of helping the village to his fellow Rotarians and things took off from there.

At this point the club has paid \$6,000 toward the project, which has paid for the initial planning, the purchase of a pump and construction of a pump house. The club has approximately \$30,000 of funds remaining and the question becomes what meaningful work can be completed with the remaining \$30,000 to have water flow to the villagers?

In the morning before the regular club meeting Mr. Leibel and Mr. Sissuh will meet with Rotary West's Ghana Water Project Committee to discuss future planning face to face.

The public is welcome to attend the regular club meeting, with the program beginning at approximately 12:15 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Temple at 8th St and A Ave NE. Lunch is available for \$10 and the buffet line opens around 11:45 a.m.

Mr. Leibel, Mr Sissuh, Committee Co-Chairs John Mack and Dana Nichols, Club President Rochelle Naylor and others will be available for pictures and interviews after the meeting at 1 p.m.

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