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It's always difficult to organize a social program as well as to work with a club in a different country.

The recent activities of Rotary in the field of water and sanitation represent a new challenge (the most important after the Polio program). One must think and find a way how to work in Israel since Rotary believes that Israel does not need any assistance because it owns already sophisticated means of its own. That's why when I proposed a water project for Israel to my Florida club, I got a negative answer.

I thought therefore of a program in the area of "conflict solution". "Hands across water" includes water, education, understanding and peace. Through the children, it is possible to establish connections which will lead to joint interests, friendship and encourage peace.

We started with "Rain harvesting" with the JNF but we were interested in more educational projects. In the last 4 years we organized a MG with Lod and started with a Jewish school but we wanted to work with Arab schools too. We got in touch with an Arab school which was not very much interested. We have learned since that in order for a project to succeed we need a supportive principal, interested teachers as well as a hard working and clever maintenance person.

Another important factor we must consider is the government's policy and the usual financial and political constraints.

Later on, we got in touch with various agricultural schools (3 Arab and 6 Jewish) and started with the Rain harvesting program.

We were then put in touch with PhD Amnon Shefi, who is a man of vision as concerns the goals education can lead to. Since different Rotary clubs are now involved in the program, we decided to call it "Hands Across Water".

Haifa Rotary club and District 2490 Israel contributed a large amount of money. We started therefore to think about something bigger and to establish a GG including 30 schools from different areas and religious creeds.

Palm Spring RC donated 10,000 US\$, more and more clubs and districts joined in. In total, 4 Rotary districts and 22 Clubs are involved in this program.

The program has 3 stages: the educational one being the first. It involves social exchange within the schools and it is really moving to see the progress made by the children.

That can be seen even today when, in spite of the present situation, representatives from Arab schools, have come to Tel Aviv to share in this event.