

## ROSE CHARITIES INTERNATIONAL: ANNUAL REPORT 2019



### 'The Earth-Pig Report' (Jan 2019 - Jan 2020)

#### Introduction

A report on the whole Rose Charities network always presents some difficulty due to its great spread of diversity, span of function and its organic expansions, contractions and movements. Almost inevitably as soon as the report is published, some aspect has changed somewhere, new initiative inaugurated, an unforeseen social event occurred (often sadly resulting from humanitarian disaster) diverting, promoting or discouraging new courses of action. However, while this is true at the field end which is the entire functional foundation of the network, the diametric opposite is true at the less physically tangible, inspirational, conceptual and human value focused end of the network where goals, aims and aspirations are constant. Indeed it may well be the convergence of the upflow of one swirling and melding process with the downflow of the other which has suffused the Rose Charities network with a rare and valuable power of sustainability difficult to achieve in organizations of a more rigid structure. What has also emerged from this this cauldron, coupled with the ever advancing process of the experience gained with time, are two hard forged ingots which now form the cornerstones of both the aspirations as well as the functional success of Rose. These lie, essentially, at each of the ends of the span, field level to philosophy which is embraced by the the Rose network. . These, the 'four 'C's of aspiration and the GLOPf 'Rosetta' will be enlarged upon later in this report.

Rose Charities International annual reports, traditionally are written in January or February of of the Year.. Partly this to avoid the turmoil of main holiday season for many (including this writer) , but also to set the timing to coincide with one of the other great festivities of the year; 'Chinese' or 'Lunar' New Year, celebrated by around 50% (or more) of the earth's population. Apart from practicalities it also is an acknowledgement that the historical roots of Rose Charities lie both in S.E. Asia (Cambodia) as well as the 'Asian-European' Canadian City of Vancouver. (birthplace also of GreenPeace) . While other geographical foci of Rose Charities activities have increased considerably ( South Asia, Africa, Central, South America, Caribbean and Pacific., S.E Asia program(s) and organizations remain still at the forefront of the Rose family, and in their their time-developed maturity now comprise foci of extraordinary competence, functionality and energy placing them right at the cutting edge of Rose activities. More will be said below about **Drs *Vra and Natalia***' s outstanding Rose

Eye Hospital in Phnom Penh, and Rose Charities Malaysia, energy and ongoing achievements. Impossible not to mention here however is one of the main fonts of Rose Malaysia's (and International's) energy, namely the International Council's hugely esteemed Chair **Dato' (title) Lawrence Cheah** of Penang. Both Dato' Lawrence (and **Datin' Lily**) seems to have simply no limits to what they are able to achieve and remain inspirational to the entire Rose family both as individuals and channeled through the incredible progress of Rose Charities Malaysia.

2019 (mid Jan 2019 to mid Jan 2020) saw the Chinese zodiac *Year of the Earth-Pig*. The Earth-Pig is renowned for being good at socializing and maintaining relationships. Most relevant however to Rose Charities is the assertion (chinesenewyear.net) that *"Pigs might not stand out in a crowd. But they are very realistic,"* *"Others may be all talk and no action. Pigs are the opposite."* . This is an eminently suitable starting point for a report on Rose Charities International as in many ways it exemplifies the modus operandi of all the organizations within the Rose Charities network. Philosophical convergence notwithstanding, Rose Charities programs are all universally focused on realistic, ground level, specific problem focused inputs, cooperations and coordinations. Top priorities are efficacy and, where needed, sustainability and, notably, not scale or publicity. Within Rose there is a realization that there are certain parameters of life which are not scalar and 'helping' is one such of them (ie completely dependant on observer, sufferer, circumstances, location, time scale etc as to make any unified calibration impossible) . Thus if a program can efficiently (and cost-effectively to deliver optimally for its indispensable donors ) help only one or two, then it is as valuable as helping many hundreds in other circumstances. Besides, there are often so many parameters needed in terms of logistics, contacts, etc in arriving in a position to give help. To backtrack from the set-up arrival point for reasons simply of comparative measure/metric of assistance (if it even existed) would be an inexcusable wast of resources.

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 'Four 'C's of aspiration

As mentioned above, 22 years of widely dispersed field operations, in all situations, emergency to long term, training, community support, health and education etc in all parts of the world and in multiple scenarios, has resulted in a great deal of experience being gained. This results also from a huge amount of interaction between persons of all nationalities, creeds, community positions, vocations, skills, challenges and lifestyles. Certain qualities however have emerged which seem to be within the core aspired to universally by members of the Rose family. These commonalities are may not be unique but they are at the forefront and provide an axis on which the wheel of Rose charities may travel and signal to others that despite being secular, non-governmental, non-sectarian and non-denominational, it does have a set of aspirations. These aspirations are thus to...

**CONNECT**

**CARE**

**COOPERATE**

**CREATE**

Specific explanation is unnecessary but there is not one single Rose Charities program or endeavour which does not demonstrate one, if not more, of them, as its basis. It has already been pointed out that the main target of Rose is bridge-building (**connecting**) and this itself is either a product of, or precursor for '**caring**'. Rose programs are again universal in working at the ends of the bridges where needs exist. The needs may be identified by a host of pathways but always of necessity endorsed and/or requested by the potential recipients, rarely delivered on perceptions generated afar. (**cooperating**). Finally, working together is the very essence of **creating** whether is in education, better health, training, income generation, environmental programs or any other aspect.

### 'GLOPF' the ROSE Rosetta..

Also over our 22 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 years of success of Rose Charities and hopefully should do so (failing major mishap!) over the next 20. The initials, G.L.O.P.f, look somewhat bizarre, but they work.

Recently also an attempt has been made to quantify it, as opposed to simply make it descriptive. Time will tell how effective the quantification is (see end of the section below)

**The 'f' word** .. There is in fact another in the name, a small 'f' at the end GLOP<sup>f</sup> 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.

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 many 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 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 through 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 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'**

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 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 mnemonic 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) .

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**

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.

## **Quantification of GLOPF**

While it is relatively easy to make statements about 'what's needed', if they can be quantified and so assessed against actual outcome, then the scale becomes not only considerably more useful but can also be refined (or rejected ! ) to be even more precise.

Here then each of the five parameters is assigned 10 points and the potential program assessed on each of the parameters. If all aspects were considered perfect then the top score would be  $10 \times 5 = 50$ . (or 100% change of success).

One parameter 'L' leadership however is considered to be most vital one of all, so it singled out as a restriction element and must be at least 9 for a program to be viable at all. Others however can take any assigned value.

Given this it is considered that (with the necessity for L to be 9 or 10), the others can then be summated (including the 9 or 10 of 'L'). As the resulting figure is out of 50, then the result can be simply doubled to give the considered percentage success rating of the program. Needless to say though that the more evenly matched parameter numbers the more secure the outcome and so the additional element of saying that a minimum score of 5 should be applicable to any individual one.

Rose Charities would typically be looking for a minimum of 80% chance of program success ie fairly high. This would mean a score of just over 40. So, for example if estimated leadership score was 9 then the other 4 parameters need make up the other 31. There would almost certainly be real ground level need... score 10, ownership may need to be developed.. score 6, partnership concept may be fine both sides at least in theory ... score 7 .. So far this makes up 23. Funding certainty would then need to be at least 8 to make the grade. However it might be possible to increase strength in the 'ownership' and 'partnership' elements if some more time were taken in program development.

It must be stressed that this quantification is only fairly recently been developed. Time will only tell is it has value

## **ROSE AROUND THE WORLD**

### **Introduction**

As previously alluded to, the structure of the Rose Charities network is multi multi-faceted, flexible and variable. This is a result of Rose Charities focus being almost entirely on ground level connections and not on the maintenance of any specific structure. Variables and parameters vary hugely depending on countries of operation, local resources, social norms and lives of the local operators. The essential fact is however that whatever structure works to support the programs, plans and endeavours of the local Rose Charities group(s) are perfectly acceptable and are able to be fitted into the network. Rose Charities was born and grew organically and it remains organic in structure working with individuals, other organizations, elements in a community, its own groups and organizations registered or not.

To expand further. Rose Charities International, consists of the International Council made up of representatives of most of the main organizations. Its function is to act as a reference point for the entire network as well as to ensure standards, circulate protocols (such as 'child protection' 'human rights' . It also standardizes profile (logo, mission statement etc) as well as encouraging specifically goal areas directions in which to push. It also is responsible for tendering for the biennial meetings (sometimes been yearly when more convenient) of which to date there have been nine. (since the first in 2008).

There are then a number of national Rose Charities organizations registered in their own countries, of necessity being independent organizations under their own laws and as a consequence offering whatever local tax benefits to donors (very important in N.America especially) to donors . At the time of writing these include. *New Zealand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, USA, and Canada* .

Next there are a set of national Rose Charities organizations (or program organization groups) not registered with their governments usually for reasons of logistical simplicity. Their modus operandi may be that of a group of charitable dedicated weekend volunteers meeting to go to assist in a local orphanage or old folks home and/or making collections from their friends and group members of emergency humanitarian causes, or it may be to coordinate with other organizations using their expertise for specific charitable efforts such as eye health screening camps or being linked in interest and involvements with other local programs and projects. These include *Singapore, Cambodia* (which was registered but de-registered to simplify operations) and *Nepal*

Beyond this the methods of operation become more diffuse. Some registered national Rose organizations specialize fully (Canada, UK, USA) or partially (NZ ) in supporting overseas programs. The largest of these in program numbers and support is Canada with involvements in SE and S Asia (including Afghanistan), Africa, Central and S. America but the UK, USA and NZ also have their own sets of involvements. In Canada's case, a number of the overseas involvements may be Rose Charities Canada sections of parts of a program under a different name which may (or not) being assisted from other sources. Such an arrangement for Canada is perfectly acceptable and legal provided proper accountable demarcation, budgeting, reporting and monitoring is carried out (ie it is effectively a Rose Charities Canada program in itself albeit under a different name). In some cases (Madagascar for example: Mahatsara School) the program (portion) is though actually named Rose Charities even though it runs as part of another. The vital element for Rose Charities Canada in these cases is to have a legal 'agency agreement' with the organization or group which is operating the main program. (such as, for example Malambo Grassroots in Zambia [www.malambograssroots.ca](http://www.malambograssroots.ca))

Finally there are individuals organizing whole programs or part of international programs which may be supported by a greater or lesser degree. This allows for the brilliance, dedication, ingenuity and experience of many internationally experienced Rose Charities

individuals which, more than any other element have been the reason for the very existence of Rose Charities. It is true to say that every major or minor program that any Rose Charities organization supports, anywhere has at one time in the past or present been the brainchild or soul-motivater of one or more individuals. Acknowledging and having a very major place for such within the Rose network is almost certainly one of its most valuable of all elements and is the biggest single factor to ensuring its continuity. Essentially it is tapping into the very core of the compassion and charity within the human spirit and acting and providing a vehicle for it to expand and perpetuate .

In consideration of actual program types, they may be of steady state nature (schools, eye clinics etc) or of the discrete 'mission' type either in sudden emergency situations or for long term needs. Missions may be of 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 now independent most important eye hospital with standards comparable to anywhere in the world providing 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. 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 Vancouver inspired by philanthropist and businessman, Mr Lawrence Keenan in conjunction with Rose Charities Sri Lanka (Mr Richard Anthony). Professor Macnab also founded and developed a revolutionary program for early diagnosis and treatment of malaria in Ugandan schools ( a major cause of missing valuable days of education)

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 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, outdoor 'back country' activities for youth disability assistance etc.

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 has now been developed by Drs Vra and Natlaia into a full Eye Hospital effectively operating on the well tried and tested system of those who can pay subsidizing free or low cost services for those who are unable to. Both a screening 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 (NZ Order of Merit) (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 having taken over in 1918 from acclaimed author Trish Gribben. Jane and John Midgley continue to generously donate accountancy services which, over the lifetime of Rose Charities NZ have been an unparalleled contribution to its running.

The planned initiative a child E.N.T (ear nose and throat) health initiative (known as '**Project Toolkit**') for *Samoa* is now substantially complete with the provision (and implementation) of an advanced portable set of specialized high quality paediatric ENT instruments. Advice and consultation has been received from the well known NZ and Samoan ENT surgeon, Dr. P.J. Famui

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. Recent flood relief efforts were assisted including health/eye camps (see Nepal section below) 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.

**2020 Power of Small Conference: Auckland 17 - 19 April 2020.** In 2018 the Rose Charities NZ Board agreed to host the 2020 , 10th Rose Charities International Conference. The name was chosen to reflect how the even small initiatives can result in big impacts on many scales, individual, community, even world. Rose Charities New Zealand is looking forward to welcoming delegates from around the world as well as a sizeable majority from New Zealand itself . One 'by product' of conference arrangements has been the concern of the trustees for greenhouse gas emissions which the conference would generate by asking delegates (especially international) to fly to attend. As a consequence of this it was decided to fund a planting of 200 native for offset and this is currently being implemented by the NZ Group 'Trees that Count' [www.treesthatcount.org.nz](http://www.treesthatcount.org.nz)

#### **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*. Programs now completed were until recently active in ***Thailand*** ( Baan Mae Ramoeng School on Myanmar border refurbishment) and the ***Philippines***. (post cyclone Hiyan reconstruction). Contacts however remain which may be re-opened in the future depending on need and program direction. In the Philippines the cooperating partner organization was the North Bacolod Rotary Club of Negros Province with whom an excellent suite of joint programs were carried out including clinics, provision of water filter and solar lights (also assisted by the Kopernik Organization Indonesia), building reconstruction and pathway reestablishment, fishing boat building and wheelchair supply

***Rose Charities Singapore*** is a very self contained and enormously charitable non govt registered charity 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, Jessica Toh and others their group spends most weekends in volunteer charitable endeavours or raising support funds for their multiple creditable initiatives.

***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 'knighthood' to become a 'Dato' for his amazing charitable work within which Rose Charities Malaysia is just one component. Organized in addition by Vice Chair 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. The rise of Rose Charities Malaysia in the breadth and depth of its programs has been phenomenal and put it now as possibly the most active (and certainly so if one takes home ie 'in country' based programs). Thanks to its executive and board Rose Charities Malaysia is deeply integrated into all aspects of the Penang community and can number its supporters as including His Excellency Abdul Rahman Abbas the State Governor as well as the State Chief Minister the Hon Chow Kon Yeow. Rose Charities Malaysia programs and events for the disadvantaged in society or the whole community are wide and concentrating, though not exclusively, on assistance to seniors. At the time of writing Rose Charities Malaysia is opening a Senior Resource Centre which will field a host of activities from a digital learning and resource center, through mahjong and other activity rooms to a Seniors business cooperative. The excellent concept is that Seniors with lifetimes of experience both have a huge amount still to offer the community as well as benefiting themselves from keeping active, involved, valued and open still to learning and using new skills.

Apart from Seniors programs Rose Charities Malaysia's community activities are varied, including orphanage support (many events for kids), infrastructural (ie helping restore one area of the famous Penang Botanical Gardens), health promotion stalls at Penang's Health Expos' and partaking and supporting health clinic missions to the inner mountainous areas of mainland Malaysia to give health support to the indigeous aboriginal 'Orang Asli' peoples.

Rose Charities Malaysia has also been very active in support of regional disasters reacting with extraordinary speed and generosity to make collections for materials or other help. The most recent example of was the severe monsoon flooding in Nepal where the Rose Nepal Group (see below) organized health camps partly supported by a generous and rapidly collected Rose Malaysia donation.

Penang Malaysia, home of Rose Charities Malaysia was the location of both the 1st (2008) and 4th (2012) International Rose Meetings and will almost certainly be a host city gain in the future.

***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. In recent years however for administrative

reasons their Rose Eye Hospital has been re-registered as a private company although it performs the same function(s), including administering to the poor as it previously did.

The progress development of the clinic to the advanced Eye Hospital which it is now is a phenomenal story which intertwines with Dr Hang Vra's own extraordinary lifeline which has taken in harsh near starvation treatment by the Khmer Rouges with other members of his family killed, extraordinary dedicated medical training under the most difficult of conditions. Total looting and destruction of his premises by an expatriate masterminded gang and finally the gradual building up of expertise and resources much of it in the face of opposition from others in the ophthalmology circuit starting with far greater resource pools. Into this mix also came first Mr John Veale then Dr David Sabiston an Mr Mike Webber (optometrist) all of Rose Charities NZ and a relationship and friendship forged which resulted in considerable amounts of equipment, training, communication monitoring and coordination.

Originally under the name of IRIS (International Resources for the Improvement of Sight) the organization started work in Cambodia in 1994. Nepalese Eye Surgeons and nurses were recruited by the writer of this report and mobile equipment purchased so that an entire eye camp could be transported by road, boat or aircraft. Cambodia at that time was seriously lacking in transport and infrastructure and much of the country was in the hands of the hostile Khmer Rouges army as well as being riddled with land mines. It was through the mine problem that Rose Charities Cambodia found a need to expand into the surgical area of rehabilitative surgery. Several large artificial limb organizations had set up in the country to deal with the huge need but none it seemed had fully realized the dilapidated state of the general medical system. It is impossible to fit an artificial limb directly onto a blast shattered leg or arm The stump(s) have to be carefully prepared first and there simply were not the facilities in the country to meet the need . Thus a branch of the organization was founded (which initially was the Rose branch of IRIS.. 'Rehabilitation Oriented Surgical Enablement') to provide this service as well as other rehabilitative surgical procedures such as cleft lip and palate and burns surgery (not least from deliberately thrown acid) . The chief surgeon for this operation was Dr Nous Sarom who continues to this day (even though the Rose rehab surgical program is long gone), as part of the Rose Charities 'family' in Cambodia and is one of the countries most distinguished surgeons (specializing in maxillofacial).

The Rose Rehabilitation Surgical Center (not the eye clinic) moved away from being a Rose Charities program but continued under the name The Children's Surgical Center. A rehabilitative physiotherapy program was run for several years, initially under the auspices of Rose Charities Australia (now disbanded) but eventually transferred as the well functioning unit that it was to the government hospital (Chea Chumneas) where it was situated. The Hillman Fund of Rose Charities Canada has been further supporting

physiotherapy in the form of the Cambodia Physical Therapy Association, the reference body for the discipline in Cambodia and one responsible for almost all the training.

Other Cambodia initiatives have been implemented over the years, including tertiary training support (accountants, business studies etc) in partnership with another organization and some emergency relief (flooding) though these have been minor in nature .

Although the role of Rose Charities has now reduced in Cambodia to that of support to the poor (to attend) and some functioning of the autonomous Rose Eye Hospital, nevertheless, Cambodia with its hugely strong historic ties to Rose Charities retains its position both psychologically and functionally as the oldest and one of the most respected Rose International 'family' members. Rose Charities Cambodia has journeyed forward with its impressive mother country helping it as it has built its way back from genocidal brutality and chaos to its position now moving towards being a modern, forward looking state. What individuals such as Dr Hang Vra, Professor Nous Sarom and many other Rose Charities members have achieved have been outstanding and helped so many. Rose Charities Cambodia has and continues to make the Rose Charities Network very proud.

### ***Vietnam***

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 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. These have now been discontinued. 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 though now reduced in extent continues specifically in microcredit and some limited early childhood education. The health center program has now been discontinued as other local health facilities have taken up fulfillment of the needs. Rose Charities Sri Lanka has always had superb integration into its own community and this continues to be the case. The outstanding direction of Mr Richard Anthony assisted by Mr Rajeshan have always provided the leadership in all areas of its development both on their own volition as well as though generously supported by Lawrence Keenan (Charity-Rose Laureate 2013) and Dr Yoga Yogendran in Vancouver and other members of the Rose Canada SL support committee.

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 planning program which, over the last two years has been sponsored by a major grant from the Grand Challenges Canada, organization. The program which evolved from this has been highly successful in that it approached family planning very much within the structure of local society and not just an issue affecting wives and husbands. The vital, local, Tabish experience has been absolutely crucial in choreographing this process (Pub. 'Medical Anthropological Theory 16 Dec 2019. W.Aria, J.Defreitas, M.Francis, A J.Macnab)

Rose Charities **Nepal** though not locally registered have become a very active Rose Charities program group though the outstanding initiatives and efforts of Ms Sarala Adhikari and more recently her nephew Mr Sakar Subedi (optometrist). Though Ms Adhikari had been a Rose member for many years from when she assisted as an eye nurse in the establishment of the Rose Charities Cambodia program it has been in recent years that her local initiatives both initially in emergency relief and community assistance have established a platform where their members of the Rose network are able to assist with combined programs and/or resources.

Directly after the April 2015 Nepal Earthquake, Ms Adhikari's implemented programs to support in her own region of the Kathmandu Valley with supplies and materials to help the stricken population. This was followed with programs to reconstruct homes as well as provide building materials for those who needed them to build their own. These programs were supported by Roses Canada, and NZ and a very generous private donation from family in HongKong. Following up were programs to refurbish the local school which in return provided free secondary education to some 14 students. (mostly girls). Then in late summer 2019 Nepal experienced a flood emergency and both Ms Adhikari arranged again distribution of assistance materials, and followed up in conjunction with Sakar Subeki with general health camps focusing mainly on eye issues

## 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

The **Projecto San Gerado Programs in Costa Rica** was terminated this year having achieved its goals in helping to establish more property, better education and a higher standard of living in the area. More tourists come now to San Gerado (many to climb Mt. Chirropo. Rose Charities is proud to have been associated with this excellent program

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.

**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 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 as helping raise support in Vancouver. Over 100 specialist nurses have now been trained and many neonatal lives saved.

The other current Haiti program is named ***Haiti Children and Youth***, founded by Jean and Terri Lubin, and runs a superb community based program in the Jacmel area, which brings sport, education/training and income generation to the young. It was started initially in the Miragoane area but later, moved.

### **Africa.**

Rose Charities direct or supported programs are ongoing in ***Uganda, Kenya, Madagascar, Zambia*** and ***Ethiopia***.

***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 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.

Another school also of around 100 children project is run 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 Huguve 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 Medicine, Makerere University***. Of particular note is the early malaria detection which has been giving excellent documented and now published results. (International Journal of Epidemiology, 2016, 1–4 doi: 10.1093/ije/dyw262). 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 artemisinin 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 Kenya) 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**. This program continues along with other initiatives in conjunction with the Kenya Paediatric Association. In Uganda Rose Charities has tended to work closely both with other Rose organized local groups,

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

Malambo Zambia has been also one of the major pivots of Rose Charities towards the vital area of the environment having initiated a tree-planting and monitoring program

**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 which takes over 100 children of all ages. Organized and run by Mr Bina Andriamanjato in Madagascar, at the Canadian end Luke King, Emma Noble and Ashlee King are the main support team in Canada. Every year they print a calendar which is sold to raise funds to help the program.

**Ethiopia:** 'Partners in Ethiopia' is a very new program (Dec 2019) (re)founded by Canadian-Ethiopian Ms Woinshet Meku (Shuswap B.C). It is a continuation of an older, very successful program (Partners in the Horn of Africa) which was discontinued for logistical reasons (and loss of directors). Partners in Ethiopia's initial goal is to help upgrade the maternity unit of a hospital in very poor area of Southern Ethiopia

## **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 5 directors and 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. Currently it is working in partnership with the Smiles Program (see Uganda section above) There are no registered Rose Charities Organizations in Europe, though some very loyal supporters, including **the Cortes de Cima Vineyards** 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 in play areas) event held usually in late April. Rose Charities NY's target program has until the present time been physiotherapy training in Cambodia (CPTA - Cambodia Physical Therapy Association).

**Rose Charities Canada**, is the largest of the hub Rose Charities Organizations with an overseas focus (Malaysia is largest focusing on local programs only). It was also 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 its own, usually geographically oriented area of programs. 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 Joanne 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 WeSSoM (WebSite and Social Media 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 purposes such as Emergency Relief when disaster strikes. Here, Rose Charities Canada is fortunate to have been 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. While Rose Charities (none of its branches) are specifically emergency relief organization(s) nevertheless Rose Charities organizations often end up in collecting support for major disasters and, though less frequently, sending teams. Such teams are only ever sent however on request of contacts the ground who can see and direct them to where they are needed.

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 renowned musicians such as pianist Ms Rutsuko Yamagishi, classical 10 string guitarist and composer. Yoshinobu Iwanaga and Ms Chieko Konishi 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 outstanding 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. For list of awardees. . see [www.rosecharities.org](http://www.rosecharities.org)

### **New directions**

One of Rose Charities main attributes is its flexibility. This has undoubtedly been one of the main components of its sustainability over the past quarter century of its existence. While there is never any intention of changing for the sake of change, nevertheless, new needs and foci for engagement constantly evolve while other drop away. Rose Charities name itself is one which does not focus the organization in any specific direction, facilitating the roles of the network organizations to be able to take almost any direction within the mission statement of the group. The Rose program spectrum is hence very wide in breadth ranging from education through income generation and poverty reduction , activities promoting peace, through to health care . There have and continue to be two more major pivots however in recent years which are manifesting by both planning and natural evolution in following needs where Rose help is possible. The first of these are an increased targeting of **programs more concerned with women** ( safe birthing, women education and training, women's income generation, womens sports etc). This has tended to occur naturally probably because of the obvious needs in these areas, as well as the now well known knowledge that increasing the health and education levels (which connect with each other) of women in communities gives the biggest increase in standards of living, quality of life and overall education level of that community.

The second area of pivot has been that into the hugely current and pressing **environmental area** While Rose Charities has often included environmental elements in their programs where they have been naturally linked hospital incinerator building Sri Lanka, garden establishment etc), it has now moved to active targeting in the sector, specifically with native tree planting programs in both Zambia and New Zealand. It is anticipated that these efforts will increase in the future in other areas.

### **2020 Rose Charities 10th International Meeting ' The Power of Small ' Auckland April 17-19<sup>th</sup>**

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 (Sri Lanka) , 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 2020 will see the 10<sup>th</sup> Rose Charities International Meeting held in Rose Charities New Zealand's largest city, Auckland and also the smaller community of beautiful Waiheke Island a short ferry ride from Auckland [www.rose-charities.org/Power-of-Small](http://www.rose-charities.org/Power-of-Small) The meeting will be held over the weekend of the 17 - 19 April 2020

## SUMMARY

Rose Charities is an organization 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 facilitate 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

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 whom the Rose bridges span.

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

### **Relevant Publications**

**\*\*A. J. Macnab and A. Kasangaki, “Many voices, one song’: Ugandan investment in child health using a health promoting school model,” *Health promotion International*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 63–73, 2012.**

**\*\*A.J. Macnab, A. Kasangaki, and F. Gagnon, “Health promoting schools provide community-based learning opportunities conducive to careers in rural practice,” *International Journal of Family Medicine*, vol. 2011, Article ID 892518, 5 pages, 2011.**

**\*\*Engaging youth as agents for change: health promoting schools positively impact knowledge, behaviours and morbidity from malaria** R Mukisa, A Macnab, S Mutabazi, R Steed *Paediatrics & Child Health*, Volume 22, Issue suppl\_1, 1 June 2017, Pages e35–e36,

**\*\*Malaria in Uganda - Oxford Academic - Oxford University Press** by AJ Macnab - 2016 - Nov 18 2016

**\*\*Engaging Afghan men at a societal level to increase women’s access to contraception.** Wais Aria, Josephine de Freitas, Maggie Francis, Andrew Macnab . *Medicine Anthropology Theory* 16th Dec 2019