

Rose Charities International Synopsis and Lunar New Year 2017 Status Report



INTRODUCTION AND TARGETS

20:20 ... Now in 2017 Rose Charities will have now been in existence somewhere in the world for 20 years. that Rose has actively supported programs in 20 countries (Appendix B) It would have been hard to imagine 20 years ago the degree of expansion which has occurred.

Starting as an offshoot program in 1997 of another organization (IRIS, registered in war shattered Cambodia 1996) it now, in its sibling organizations and/or programs spans the continents of *Oceania, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas* with active programs or support board in all of them. Growth and expansion has however been completely coincidental, not by design, and so it is not the aim of this report to dwell on size and extent as these are not in any nor have ever been way the targets of Rose Charities. Paths to existence themselves though have been many and varied as, over the years a number of other excellent organizations have joined forces with Rose Charities, and each of those have had their own origins and founders, albeit somewhat newer than the main rose root.

The targets are and always have been to build bridges between those who want to give and those who will benefit from receipt to make better, safer, more productive, meaningful happy and fulfilling lives without grinding poverty and 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. While financial support is the great enabler, it is so often put far too highly up the scale of needs as the driver, not simply the lubricant of any given program. Rose Charities is additionally far more concerned about carrying out functional, cost effective, work on any scale, however small that will help individuals or groups of individuals to a better quality of life. This could be in health education, income generation or any other areas. 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)

G.L.O.P.F. : Over the 20 years the organizers of Rose Charities have by empirical experience and hands on field work established the 'magic five' essential parameters for a field program to successfully run and if there is nothing else in this report worth noting, these are. If all of them are adequately fulfilled, all and every field program will definitely work. But even if one of them is not fulfilled almost at maximum level then almost certainly it will fail. **G**: 'ground level need': these are the real needs to be met, as identified by the potential recipients, not by external observers. **L**: 'leadership' probably the most important of all: local (preferably) fully emotionally invested competent leadership is more than vital; **O**: 'ownership' of the program

by the recipients: they decide where and how it should go. **P:** 'partnership' with the supporting organization with full, honest and transparent interchange of thoughts, planning, ideas, suggestions, debate etc. Also at the support organization end the engaging of donors and supports who have a sense of ownership of the project. And finally, essential but not first **F:** 'funding', initially if possible by external agency, but always planning for self funding either by local petitioning for grants, or integrating into a government system, or by generating locally by its own service or material production. All these foci can be enlarged on, but beyond the scope of this report. Suffice it to say that every single successful Rose Charities program, and this is almost 100% majority has, either on later analysis or by deliberate planning fulfilled totally, all the criteria.

Interestingly, though Rose Charities never set out to be an *Emergency relief* organization, the same GLOPF principles have on many occasions made it be one. Typically the events have unfolded by a sudden need becoming apparent, a leader or leaders emerging who are prepared to take control, local decision as to where and what is needed, partnership of Rose and finally funding being generated from concerned donors wishing to help. The interesting sequel of this is that GLOPF has almost always resulted in not simply the 'in - out' assistances of many other organizations who quietly leave not long after the media coverage has moved away but programs have continued for many years afterwards or even multiplied or expanded. Thus Rose Charities Sri Lanka, originally formed after the 2004 Tsunami still continues to this day as does Haiti Neonatal Resuscitation teaching program, and Miragoane youth and community assistance programs. Philippines post Hiyan programs continue as does assistance in Nepal and Tohoku, Japan through long-time close partner organization AMDA Japan.

ROSE CHARITIES ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS: To make a detailed summary of all the Rose Charities direct and supported programs world-wide would take far more pages than this report. Nevertheless, below is very brief outline. Reference should also be made to the excellent year end report of Rose Charities Canada Chair, Maggie Francis which can be found via www.rosecharities.net or www.facebook.com/rosecharitiesinternatioal. A copy of is also appended (Appendix A, below) and reference made to it especially in relation to programs where Rose Charities Canada is involved.

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. Its 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,

Figure 1: Trish Gribben, NZ Chair prepares tsunami relief fundraiser of paintings made by child survivors

expertise, and other support the symbiosis between the two countries has resulted in modern superbly run eye facilities as well as a special, facility for the poor also to be treated, with identical high standards. The number of patients treated is close to half a million, over the last 12 years. The unit is now self sustaining 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 an outreach program as well so optometric / refraction services are offered and training for new eye surgeons. *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 from the NZ end. *Rose Charities NZ* is chaired by Mrs Trish Gribben who has provided superb leadership with absolute hands on involvement in all aspects of the programs. Jane and John Midgley contine to donate which huge generosity financial managment support. As a new initiative a child E.N.T (ear nose and throat) health initiative for *Samoa* is in advanced stages of planning / early stages of implementation advised by the well known NZ and Samoan surgeon Dr P.J. Famui. This initiative has been named *Project Toolkit* and will expand over 2017. 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, the Philippines and Samoa.



Figure 2: A truck for Rose Cambodia Eye Clinic

S.E.Asia:

Rose Charities organizations exist in Singapore, Malaysia, and Cambodia but field programs run not only in these countries but also in *Vietnam, and Thailand.*



Figure 3: A Rose Singapore member chats with an old person on a weekend visit

Continuation reconstruction and disability assistance work in the Philippines is still in the aftermath of hurricane Haiyan (Nov 2013), though it is in its final stages. The main partner in these efforts was the *Bacalod Rotary Club* on this island of *Negros* and consisted of supplying and fitting solar lighting in some of the reconstructed buildings, as well as making wheelchairs for the disabled. Earlier work was far more extensive but beyond the scope of this report. *Rose harities Singapore* is a very self contained but 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 Charities Malaysia* runs out of George Town, Penang where it is state registered. Chair of *Rose Charities Malaysia* is Mr Lawrence Cheah who is also Chair of the *Rose Charities International Council*. In mid 2016, Mr Cheah, to the delight and honour of the whole *Rose Charities Network*, was 'knighted' as a Malaysian 'Datuk' ('knight' or 'lord') 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 occasionally taken to the mainland . which form the backbone of the Malay Peninsular and



Figure 4: Datuk and Datin, Lawrence (Chair of *Rose Charities International*) and Lily Cheah. Penang, Malaysia

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

Further north *Rose Charities Cambodia* 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 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. Also in Cambodia and a registered organization has



Figure 5: Mike Webber N.Z (CRoAward 09) and Dr Hang Vra Camboida CRAward 07), with Rose NZ donated equipment

been a physiotherapy training and treatment facility at Chea Chumneas Hospital in Takmao, a town adjoining to the south of Phnom Penh. RCRC or Rose Cambodia Rehabilitation Centre has a role in promoting the not well known benefits of physiotherapy to a population convinced that pills, surgery and iv infusions are the only advantages of western medicine. This program excellently managed first by Ms Sophak Chim and later by Mrs Theary Chuun, has had great success in increasing the realization of the benefits of

physiotherapy as shown by the steadily increasing numbers of patients who present for free or low cost (cost recovery)

treatment. Rose Charities NY - USA has been pivotal with this program in providing almost all its support. Every year Rose NY holds an annual and hugely popular (not to say bitterly contested) street 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). As of 2017 the RCRC program will leave Chea Chumneas Hospital to follow possible plans to recommence in a new physiotherapy dedicated centre. 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 2015 with some financial input for the training programs by Rose Charities Canada's Hillman Fund . 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 Although the original Rose Charities Canada organization in Vietnam has now been withdrawn for logistical reasons, program assistance continues there through financial and material support largely organized by Mrs



Figure 6: Dr Nous Sarom (CRAward 06). Fixes a cleft palate

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 generous donations largely from the UK based Olive Bonas Company. This is however now being phased out so that there is likely to be less support. 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 .

Thailand: The *Baan Mae Ramoeng School* close to the Burma border in Tak Province NW Thailand has been supported in 2016 through targeted donations to Rose Charities Canada, largely from the people of Richmond B.C largely from the collection efforts of the charitable CIEAFF. This is the first time that CIEAFF and Rose Charities have worked together and a mention must be made with great praise of Mr Tom Mah as well as Rose Charities Canada Hon Director and long time Emergency Relief expert, Dr Collin Yong. The school was in urgent need of repairs and also the building of a dormitory as many children of displaced families from Burma need and use its services.

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 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 expansion in the Kalmunai area especially is being planned as an expansion area partly in conjunction with a new hospital program in Batticaloa.



Figure 7: Afghan womens health program with Tabish Organization

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. Rose Charities efforts in *Nepal* have been a continuation of the emergency relief assistance carried on into reconstruction and development

This has 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. The situation in Nepal has been held back by overbearing bureaucratic processes. Nevertheless, thanks to Sarala and links to *AMDA Nepal* organizers, a high degree of success has been achieved. Support for reconstruction of *AMDA Nepal* program of toilets for two schools in *Ghorka* (one of the devastated areas north of Kathmandu) was given and these were completed in the summer of 2016 benefiting around 900 people. Emergency preparedness workshops for the local people were also held. Saralas 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*



Figure 8: Building new home in Kopu Nepal

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 2017 with the establishment of a ‘*Rose-Sarala*’ reconstruction assistance fund. This will assist where possible with specific aspects of peoples attempts to reconstruct themselves as the needs 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.

Caribbean (Haiti) , Central and South America

All the *Rose Charities* Caribbean, Central and South America programs fall entirely under *Rose Charities Canada* and so are reported in the *Rose Canada Chair* report, Appendix I below. *Guatemala* is the location of two very successful *Rose Charities* projects, one in education and one safe birthing. The *Safe Motherhood Guatemala program* was founded and run by *Annette Borkent* and *Dr Ruth Brighouse* of *Salmon Arm B.C* and has not only established



Figure 9: Comadrones training, *Safe Motherhood Guatemala* program.

itself as fulfilling a hugely needed training role, both with local authorities and communities in an ever expanding region. The birth attendants trained are known as ‘*comadrones*’ and the training has now been extended by popular demand to cover male participant such as fire-fighters and local health workers. So successful has the program been that the government is now committing to help support it and expand it further. *The Mayan Project* is a school and education program founded by *Dr Ellen Coburn* and covers both primary and secondary educational need (in some cases including college) in an area of extreme poverty and need.

The *Projecto San Gerado Programs in Costa Rica* founded by Jenny Moss and daughter Liz are community based and cover education, focusing on English teaching, income generation 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. The newest program focus in Rose Charities (together with the Baan Mae Ramoeng Thailand program) is the *Uno a Uno Program in Ecuador* which 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 our emergency relief efforts, initially in conjunction with *AMDA International*, then independently, after the terrible earthquake of January 2010 when multiple medical assistance were sent focusing more and more in on assisting the re-establishment of neonatal nursing facilities. The *Rose Haiti Neonatal Resuscitation Program*, taken on and excellently managed by Karan Schafer continues to this day at the Adventist Hospital, Port au Prince with



Figure 10: Neonatal resuscitation trainees Haiti

Karen both instructing in Haiti as well as helping raise support in Vancouver and over 100 specialist nurses have now been trained and many neonatal lives saved. The other program is focused on *Youth and Community assistance in the Miragoane area in south-west Haiti*. 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. In *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 Nicole 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. 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



Figure 11: Dr Andrew Macnab shows of a highly nutritious sweet-potato grown in a school vegetable plot

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, rural male seniors urological assistance program, and early Ebola detection and procedures. 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. 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.



Figure 12: Dr Joanne Young (Chair of Hillman Fund Committee), Craig Keeting, and Dr Mutabasi of HEADA on a field visit Uganda

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 originally by the Professor Elizabeth Hillman (Order of Canada) to promote medical education. It has been involved in many programs over the years both in Africa (Uganda and Kenya) as well as Pakistan and Cambodia. (mentioned in the SE Asia section). In Kenya it originally sponsored an emergency training 'ETATS' course for doctors working in rural

areas. Last year it 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 it is one of the most active of the Rose Committees and pivotal to the output of the whole organization, particularly in Africa. 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 will also be assisted by *Rose Charities UK* which has made the board decision to target the area of 'Education for Leadership', spearheaded by the Smiles program. Rose Charities UK's new board member Khalid Virani is wonderfully continuing to arrange fund-raising events partly through his very well known London 'Raffles' Nightclub. Other events too are planned with the highlight in 2016 being an amateur (volunteer) boxing afternoon.

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, The Vancouver Malambo Grassroots program in Canada was founded by Jocelyn Banyard and world renowned classical harpist Heidi Krutzen (of Canada), though and now ably assisted by Sarah Taylor though the original programs in Zambia 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, some sponsorship 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.



Figure 13: Heidi Krutzen with Chief of Muggiga Village, Zambia

In 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 Canadian 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 www.rosecharities.org.uk has a board of 6 directors and to date has concentrated on fund-raising initiatives targetted on Rose Charities projects in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Afghistan as well as several of the Rose Charities Emergency relief activities. Most recently a decision has been made to target child education in an Education for Leadership Program. Starting intially with the Smiles program in Uganda, the plan is to extend from here, depending on the success of fundraising. The newest director, Mr Khalid Virani has already generously carried out several significant fund-raising events both from his 'Raffles Club' in Chelsea London and other UK locations. More are planned for 2017. There are no registered Rose Charities Organizations in Euorpe, though some very loyal supporters, including the Cortes de Cima Vinyards in Portugal, run by Carrie and Hans Jorgensen, who have been very generous in sponsoring events with provison of wine. Rose Charities NY 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 April. Rose Charities NY's target program has until the present time been RCRC (Rose Charities Rehab Centre) in Cambodia though with the changes in structure of RCRC whether this will continue or not is under discussion. The largest of the hub Rose Charities Organizations is *Rose Charities Canada*, having been the first outside Cambodia to have been registered 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 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 also the including of experts, consultants etc who are not members of the main board to be included. 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 closely associated Dr Collin Yong, an honorary member of its main board who both a consultant pediatrician as well as having formidable



Figure 14: Rose Charities NY USA annual street hockey fundraiser. Chair Rachel Greene lines up a shot.



Figure 15: Drs Pargat Bhurji Singh and Collin Yong working in disaster scenarios: Haiti and Philippines..

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 'intermittant' committee is the AMDA

Committee consists of members of the Canadian branch of AMDA (Japanese group not currently registered as an organization in Canada Ms Tsuneko ('Sue') Ishii and Ms Mari Miyasaka are pivotal in this committee which recruits the Japanese diaspora in Vancouver to come together for a classical music concert performed by a leading Japanese virtuoso. 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 Equador and Kumamoto diasters of this year. Often the events have been held in the main Christ Church Cathedral in central Vancouver.

Chair of Rose Charities Canada is Mrs Maggie Francis whose annual report is seen below in Appendix A.



Figure 16: Linda Roberts (Canada). Hugely deserving 2014 Charity Rose Award laureate

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. 2015 winner (ie awarded in 2016) was Ms Nichole Schouela of Canada for the founding and running, year after year of the ground breking Stand Tall Education Centre in Uganda.

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), Lunar (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. On this occasion 'Lunar' or 'Chinese' New Year (also Tet in Vietnam) turns out to be an excellent choice in terms of date and also to celebrate all our Rose Charities volunteers, helpers, organizers and supporters to whom this is their wonderful traditional and primary annual celebration.

The recently deceased British art historian John Berger (1926- 2017) once said the following words. Let those be now at the forefront of our minds both for 2017, Year of the Fire Hen, and then on after always, into the future. Happy New Year to all !

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

William N. Grut MD
Exec. Sec Rose Charities International

Appendix A

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2016 ROSE CHARITIES CANADA...

I am very pleased to report on another successful year in the life of Rose Charities Canada.

The past year has seen events and ongoing conflicts in the world that can leave us feeling disheartened by the lack of compassion and humanitarianism.

That said, there are individuals and organizations such as Rose Charities Canada that continue to demonstrate the best in human qualities. This includes our volunteers, donors, project leaders, service recipients and all those who take the time to be involved here in Canada and on the ground overseas with a common goal of helping people in need.

In reviewing the annual reports of all the different projects, I am amazed at how much is achieved and how despite the challenges of funding from year to year the projects continue to thrive and enhance their local communities.

Some themes stand out this year including the push for scholarships to help disadvantaged students move from primary to secondary and college level training. In many cases students are learning vocational skills that will set them up for future employment.

Education is a major factor in helping people move out of poverty and increase their well being whether by learning to play a musical instrument, run a poultry keeping project or how to breast feed. It is a crucial component of all our projects.

Construction of buildings has also been important for the projects this year including a new classroom, school dormitories, latrine, and basic housing for those people that lost their homes in earthquake and hurricane impacted areas.

In all the projects there are countless unsung heroes who may have few resources but work tirelessly for their families and their communities. In Nepal, where a remote village was devastated by the earthquake, an elderly woman made it her job to give manicures and pedicures to other elderly people whose nails she noticed were looking in very poor shape.

Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, suffered the devastation of Hurricane Matthew this year. A brave volunteer managed to find a way to carry money raised by RCC to a remote village in the mountains. His actions resulted in 170 families receiving rice, oil and spaghetti for a week.

There are many examples of these heroes who selflessly respond to people in need. They are the backbone of our organization and make us all proud to belong to this community.

Here are some highlights from the projects this year:

AFRICA

Stand Tall Construction of a new library/classroom building; a new program with the Girls Education Challenge to build support for the education of girls; continuing successful relationship with UBC Faculty of Education with 4 students a year at the project one of whom ,Tami Sandhu, won the Community Experience Award for outstanding

contribution; continuing scholarship program, vocational training including animal husbandry, vegetable garden, making liquid soap and volunteering in the community desilting the local well.

Volset Continues to support 275 children in primary school at low cost; construction of a new dormitory which will house 80 girls; a latrine; introduction of poultry keeping; continued sponsorship of students

Rose International Conference held this year in Uganda was a great success with the involvement of the local community and our projects based there. Nicole Schouela, project leader of Stand Tall and a board member of RCC was the recipient of the Rose Charities Award for Outstanding Humanitarian Assistance for Those in Need.

Brighter Smiles Continued scholarship program; vocational/apprentice program including a successful used car program for students; school gardens with one school adding an entrepreneurial component making snack foods from orange sweet potatoes, a nutritional food source of Vitamin A. Malaria Project (funded through HMEF – Hillman Medical Education Fund- instruction given to teachers on how to test for malaria on all children who become sick at school. Correct treatment then given to those who test positive resulting in a drop in the number of days absent from school. A Photo Essay of this project was published in the International Journal of Epidemiology.

Malambo St Vincent School continued scholarships, purchase of sweaters for children; running an incubator and selling baby quails and chickens; vegetable gardening projects. **Ngome Dulce** a change of structure auditioning for a smaller number of students with a guaranteed 5 years of tuition enabling students to learn the guitar, cello, piano and drums to an advanced level.

Kenya HMEF supported the Smart Moms Affair World Breastfeeding Week with focus groups of 98 women in a hospital in Kenya.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Ecuador- Uno a Uno Project In their first year 348 students were registered for classes including English programs for adults, children and young adults; a tutoring program; a summer program for children; recruiting local expats to look after administration. After just one year Uno a Uno has become a vibrant learning centre and a unique part of the community.

Guatemala **Safe Motherhood Project** has continued to train further "" (traditional birth attendants) in small remote towns; hands on classes to "comodrones" paramedics, firemen and nurses. The program has been so successful that they have been asked by the Ministry of Health to go to another remote area where there are no health facilities for women in labour.

Costa Rica Continues to provide free classes, scholarships and job training to rural Costa Ricans who have little access to opportunities; an expanded English program this year; expansion of Amigos Inglos program by recruiting more volunteers – 25 students benefited from 1:1 practice; provision of computer skills to 2 communities.

Haiti **Children and Youth** organized their 4th annual Soccer Camp in February before the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. 225 children from 5 communities attended 75 of whom were orphans. Children were also taught to make bracelets and necklaces as a means of income. 37 orphans were provided with a donated goat enabling them to have the finances to attend school.

Neonatal Resuscitation Education Another successful training given to 62 health care professionals by 2 paediatricians and 1 nurse educator from Canada. The team also provided 75 French language health care text books to 6 health care facilities. This education and training is crucial for the well being of babies in a country with few resources.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Cambodia Eye Hospital run by Dr Vra has been in operation since 1998 and has treated over 1 million people with many thousands having had their sight restored or blindness prevented. In 2016 the Rose Clinic moved into their new premises with a new structure where paid surgeries will help to cover the cost of free services.

HMEF(Hillman Medical Education Fund)In addition to the Smart Moms Affair and Malaria project above HMEF has supported individual scholarships including a young woman attending nursing school; the Cambodian Physical Therapy which provides much needed physiotherapy services; Ebola preparedness project. Continues to support **Tabish in Afghanistan** which provides training to Traditional Birth Attendants in IDP camps. A proposal from Rose Charities Canada has been submitted to Grand Challenges focussing on the use of mobile cinema to encourage attitude change in men towards allowing their wives access to midwives.

Thailand A joint fundraiser evening at a local restaurant organized by RCC and CIAF raised about \$69,000 for a Princess Sirindhort project in a remote northern community of Thailand. The funds supported the construction of a school dormitory to enable children from a wide area to attend school.

Vietnam Donations enabled the purchase of a generator for Mai Hoa Aids Hospice.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

RCC has responded to devastating natural disasters in Nepal, Ecuador, Japan and Haiti.

Nepal Support to unreached people in a remote village where many homes were destroyed. Warm materials and lamps provided to 104 families. 3 houses built. Involvement of all the community in the construction including the project leader' 89 year old mother. Rutsuko Yamagishi Concert in Vancouver, a wonderful evening with a brilliant pianist donating her performance for free. Funds raised went to Japan for acupuncture and moxibustion treatments to 300 to 400 traumatized people living in shelters and to Ecuador for food supplies organized by Uno a Uno. Haiti Donations for a remote village. Volunteers rebuilding homes and replanting seeds.

Alongside the activities of the projects the Board of Directors, our book keeper Kevin Simpson and other volunteers continue to provide unwavering support for the operational and governance side of Rose Charities Canada.

The board has worked on various governance issues including revising an Ethical Investment Policy which will meet our values as an organization. Emily McCance was approved as our Treasurer this year. A new Director- Frank Tharakan – has also joined us bringing a wealth of skills. A Financial Committee has been formed to be responsible for reviewing investments and other financial matters. The members include Tim Maguire, Frank Tharakan, Galib Kara and Emily McCance. At a board meeting we were also introduced to Joy Hayden – someone with considerable knowledge of fund-raising.

The Project Forum was held in February providing an opportunity to showcase the projects and hear about their wonderful work during the year.

A Business Meeting with project leaders reviewed a number of issues including the incidence of fraud, nurturing donors and promoting the work of their projects.

The Accountability Committee has continued to meet regularly throughout the year to review operational matters and develop policies and procedures. Some of the topics covered this year include succession planning, budget templates, fraud, scholarships, publicity and the use of photographic images. Members of this committee include Linda Roberts, Josie deFreitas, Annie Grut and Maggie Francis.

The work that goes on behind the scenes is crucial to the operation of Rose Charities Canada and ensures that we meet the standards of the Canadian Revenue Agency(CRA). The Board appreciates all the countless volunteer hours that people provide to keep the organization alive.

And we are also thankful for all the donors that see it in their hearts to give to our projects. We receive many notes of gratitude from the recipients in the projects for the kindness of people here in Canada.

All of us on the Board are so impressed by what is achieved in the projects and how a little goes a long way. It is, however, the individual stories that inspire us and help us truly understand the impact of the projects in peoples' lives.

A young orphan in Haiti was enabled to attend the Soccer Camp and subsequently helped to attend school. He was provided with a goat to give him some income. He started to volunteer at the Soccer Camp and developed leadership skills. He is now on the Haiti Project Committee.

His life would have been very different had he not had the opportunity provided by the Haiti project.

It is people such as this young man that are the heroes in all of this.

To conclude, all of us on the Board thank everyone for their commitment and contributions to Rose Charities Canada and its project members over the past year. We hope this will continue into the New Year and beyond.

Appendix B

Nationally Registered or National Named Rose Charities organizations and websites

New Zealand,	www.rose-charities.org
Singapore	See Facebook site
Malaysia	www.myrosecharity.org and Facebook
Cambodia	www.rosecambodia.org and Facebook
Sri Lanka	www.rosesrilanka.info and Facebook
United Kingdom	www.rosecharities.org.uk
United States	www.rosecharities.us
Canada	www.rosecharities.ca

Countries with active Rose supported field programs (direct or through other local organizations and groups)

New Zealand, Samoa
Singapore, Malaysia
Cambodia, Vietnam,
Thailand, Philippines,
Japan
Sri Lanka, Nepal
Afghanistan
Kenya, Uganda
Zambia, Madagascar
Guatemala, Costa Rica
Ecuador
Haiti