



## Child AIDS Prevention

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# LARAP forges partnership with Save the Children to extend CAP services in Liberia

By Rich Casey, President,  
Los Altos Rotary AIDS Project  
December 1, 2013 Los Altos, CA

The Los Altos Rotary AIDS Project (LARAP) has spent the past year forging a new partnership with Save the Children, the world's largest NGO working on behalf of women and children. LARAP's goal is to extend its Child AIDS Prevention (CAP) services, which it has been providing on a pilot basis in the West African nation of Liberia, to twenty-three additional clinics throughout the northern and central sections of that country.

From 2009 to 2012, LARAP, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Sinkor, Liberia and the Rotary Foundation, has been providing drugs, diagnostics and extensive educational services to five government health facilities in and around the capital city of Monrovia. In 2011, these two Rotary clubs also conducted an HIV Care and Prevention

Workshop in Liberia to train sixty healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators, on the latest practices in Child AIDS Prevention.

The new partnership with Save the Children will extend CAP services well beyond Liberia's capital city and into the more populous counties of the country's interior. To fund this expanded program, Save the Children and the Rotary Clubs of Los Altos and Sinkor have raised almost \$140,000 to date and have applied for a major grant of almost \$90,000 from the Rotary Foundation.



**CHILD AIDS  
PREVENTION**

A Los Altos Rotary  
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Final action on that grant is expected before Christmas of this year, thus enabling initiation of the expanded project in the first quarter of 2014.

Through this new partnership with Save the Children, Rotary expects to reach an additional 30,000 pregnant Liberian women each year and thereby prevent 1,500 babies from becoming HIV-infected at birth.

*Your end-of-year donation to LARAP, a non-profit 501 (c) 3, will help save more babies.*



## Rotary District Governors offer DDF support

By Marlene Cowan

Rotary District 5330 now tops the DDF transfer list to CAP, thanks to the leadership of Past District Governor Steve Wallace and his wife Kathy. District Designated Funds (DDF) are monies returned to governors from The Rotary Foundation for use in projects by the governor or their clubs.



*Steve Wallace, District 5330*

In October 2012 Rich Casey introduced the CAP project to the Rotary Club of Lake Elsinore Sunset. District Governor 5330's Steve Wallace then transferred \$30,000 of his area's DDF to CAP. 5170 District Governor Arley Marley also transferred \$15,000 DDF to support CAP.

Seven individual clubs have followed their District's lead by transferring their DDF to CAP. Among those much appreciated donors this year are the Rotary clubs of Dublin, East Palo Alto, Fremont-Union City-Newark (the FUN club), Mountain View, San Jose North, San Leandro, and Santa Cruz.

Transfer of DDF to the CAP project benefits both the Rotary districts and their clubs, which can participate in an established, international project without doing the complex grant-writing.

The benefit to newborn babies is that The Rotary Foundation (TRF) generously matches DDF funds dollar for dollar, whereas cash donations are matched only 50%. So DDF transfer to CAP is a win-win situation that ultimately benefits more newborn infants.

For further information on DDF transfers, contact Rich Casey at [RLC73@aol.com](mailto:RLC73@aol.com)

## "Los Altos Story" writer/director Robin Young co-hosts NPR's "Here and Now" radio show

By Marlene Cowan



*Robin Young*

"The Los Altos Story" was directed 24 years ago by Robin Young, above, with Greg Hoblit. Today its universal message of family love and support continue to inspire and comfort loved ones of persons dying of AIDS.

Rotary AIDS Project founder Dushan "Dude" Angius reports that last spring, a Boston theatre and art critic wrote to thank Robin Young. Though it was years ago when he had seen her film showing the courageous way the Angius family supported their son, the 1989 video has "stuck with me all this time". It recently helped him to peacefully say goodbye to his elderly aunt who was dying of dementia.

Robin Young co-hosts the "Here and Now" show recently moved to National Public Radio 88.5, expanding the two hour news

magazine from 1.35 million to nearly 3.5 million listeners. In September 2011, Robin Young interviewed Rich Casey, President of the Los Altos Rotary AIDS Project. Casey hopes that future NPR programs will help bring CAP's message to a much larger audience.

To request a 30 minute DVD of the prestigious Peabody Award-winning video, "The Los Altos Story", contact Los Altos Rotary AIDS Project, P. O. Box 794, Los Altos, CA 94023 or visit

[www.rotaryaidsproject.org](http://www.rotaryaidsproject.org)

# Rural Nepal calls for CAP Vocational Training Team

By Allart Ligtenberg

The rural areas of Nepal sorely need help to improve the health of women, children and youth, especially among the very poor, socially disadvantaged, people. Dr. Pushpa Bhatt of Kathmandu has organized a group of women into a non-political NGO named Partnership Nepal (PATNEP) which focuses on HIV/AIDS education, Child AIDS Prevention, and support for HIV+ positive women and children.

Recently Dr. Bhatt was asked to review a Rural Health Development Program in central Nepal's remote areas of Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga located 300 kilometers east of Kathmandu. This program had implemented mothers' groups and a 24/7 birthing center to provide general medical care, delivery, medicine, health education, laboratory and pharmacy services to 29 pregnant mothers last year. "However there is nothing done in the field of AIDS here. I intend to develop prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS."



*PATNEP volunteer oils a baby's skin*

Nepal's far western region of Baitadi needs Rotary help the most. "There is literally a caste system existing and widely prevalent," explains Dr. Bhatt. "The 'untouchables' are treated worse than animals here. Many men go to India as migrant labor, and when they come back they carry the HIV virus to their wife, and then it is transmitted to their babies." Village children are strongly affected. "Many children with HIV infection are brought to Kathmandu, and we are facing severe problems

with them, for in the villages they are expelled from school. Twenty of the children's relatives are asking for help, but we have really not much to offer



except consolation and microcredit loans. In many villages only grandparents and grandchildren have survived. The parents' generation is wiped away."

Dr. Bhatt's recent book "A Doctor in the Bush," recounts her experiences as a doctor for over 10 years in "extremely backwards" western Nepal. These stories are heartrending, poignant, lively and funny, all at the same time. Instead of calling her "doctor sahib" the locals initially referred to her as "doctorni", usually reserved for the wives of male doctors. "Women are treated as third-class citizens. First are men, second the female animals such as cows and buffaloes, and in third status are women, no matter how educated."

Los Altos Rotary's Child AIDS Program (CAP) has already funded PATNEP's workshop on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS in Baitadi. There 300,000 copies of pamphlets were developed and distributed, and local FM radio broadcasted prevention of HIV/AIDS information to 700,000 people. Rotarian Allart Ligtenberg visits Nepal each year to establish and teach new HIV/AIDS prevention programs. He announces, "Our next fundraising goal is an HIV/AIDS health care Vocational Training Team (VTT) for Nepal."

# Rotaract Fundraising Rocks

By Marlene Cowan



(left to right) Lieutenant District Gov. Malavika Kulashekav and 2012-13 Rotaract District 5170 Governor Eakta Malik present CAP's Rich Casey a check for \$5,500 representing 2012-13 fundraising by District 5170 Rotaract Clubs.

The five Rotaract Clubs in District 5170 selected CAP as their District-wide international project 2012-13, and Yvonne Kwan spotlighted it at the Rotaract Big West Conference Oct. 12-13 at UCB. Under the leadership of Rotaract Chairman Donn Wadley of Sunnyvale Sunrise Rotary and 2012-13 Rotaract District Governor Eakta Malik, the clubs have made great strides in fundraising and service. Tri-Valley Rotaract was chartered June 30, 2013.

The year's first CAP fundraiser was a raffle for a bottle of fine wine donated by Donn Wadley. In February 2013, under the leadership of co-presidents Angelique Aspacio and Eric Silva, the Santa Cruz Rotaractors sold chocolate on the UCSC campus for Valentine's Day. In April President Yvonne Kwan's Greater Fremont Club sponsored "Night CAP", a cocktail evening and raffle. In May the Central Alameda Club finished painting the Boys and Girls Club in time to host their supper and raffle event. Led by Marianna Moles, the Silicon Valley Club worked online using a crowd funding platform to attract donations. A fundraising night at Woodstock Pizza completed the Rotaractors' very successful events. Even more good news: District 5170 Rotaractors have now elected to continue supporting CAP as their international project under the leadership of Paul Mosso, 2013-14 Rotaract DG.

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored program connecting 18 - 30 year old students and young professionals for leadership, friendship and local/international community service. For more information, see [www.facebook.com/groups/rotaract5170/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/rotaract5170/).

## Contact us

Please remember LARAP, a 501 (c)3 charity, in your end-of-year donations



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Donate online at  
[www.rotaryaidsproject.org](http://www.rotaryaidsproject.org)  
or P.O. Box 794  
Los Altos, CA 94023-0794

The Los Altos Rotary AIDS Project (LARAP) was founded in 1989 by members of the Rotary Club of Los Altos, California. Its purpose is to engage Rotarians in the fight against AIDS. In 1989 the Los Altos Rotary AIDS Project became the first Rotary club in the world to bring attention to AIDS. Their goals are to change attitudes and behaviors, educate others about HIV/AIDS, support those afflicted with the disease, and encourage Rotary involvement. They meet the 3rd Thursday each month, 1:45 pm at First Republic Bank, 400 S. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos. Supporters are invited.

Today their Child AIDS Prevention (CAP) initiative aims to improve maternal-child health by preventing HIV transmission from infected mothers to their infants. They have focused on Liberia, a country underserved by the international HIV/AIDS medical community due to the past history of political turmoil and violence. Here they are helping develop the very first nationwide program for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. Their next goal is to establish a CAP program for rural Nepal.

#### Contacts:

Rich Casey, President  
Marlene Cowan, Newsletter Editor  
Steve Pomeroy, Technical Consultant

[RLC73@aol.com](mailto:RLC73@aol.com)  
[marlenecowan@gmail.com](mailto:marlenecowan@gmail.com)  
[stpomeroy@gmail.com](mailto:stpomeroy@gmail.com)



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