

Future Vision

Future Vision is the Rotary Foundation's name for our new grant-making model that has been implemented in 20% of Rotary's districts and will be in effect in 6920 and worldwide on July 1, 2013. On December 9th experts from 6900, under Future Vision now, conducted a workshop for us in Dublin so that we could begin as a district to prepare for changes that will affect the structure and process for grants within our district as well as for our international grants. The terminology changes, the approval process changes and clearly the district's responsibilities change.

The good news is that more of your contributions to the Foundation's Annual Fund will be available for projects inside our district. Further, we will be able to continue what we know as District Simplified Grants, Group Study Exchange and Ambassadorial Scholarships if we elect to use our District Designated Funds to do so. For DSG our intent is that the grant support the active involvement of Rotarians and not simply be a donation to another organization and that will be of increasing importance under Future Vision.

The more significant changes will be with international grants – called Global Grants under Future Vision. In addition to the expertise that our district has traditionally provided to support clubs doing international grants, the district will begin to qualify such clubs and execute a memorandum of understanding with each club that wants to participate in a Global Grant. The Foundation wants to see grants initiated more by in-country Rotarians to insure that the grant truly makes sense “on the ground” and its benefits are actually sustained for 5-7 years. We will no longer simply fund a well or a piece of equipment; we will be funding a more comprehensive solution to a problem.

At our Dublin Foundation Seminar in August we Skyped with our matching grant partner in Bolivia and that type of project is a prime example of the intent of Future Vision. We have been doing the right thing with our matching grants like that when invest in sustainable projects originated by in-country Rotarians who are grounded in addressing the “root cause” rather than short term fixes or investments that no longer function after several years.