

*The following is from Cultural Scholar Maria Connelly, who will be concluding her studies in Salamanca, Spain at the end of this month. I am overwhelmed by the quality of student that we get to serve as Rotary ambassadors. Please read the following. A solid International Service project may be in the formative stages and I would encourage you to contact Marie Connelly if you are interested in working with her. I'm sure Marie would be pleased to keep you posted.*

*I hope you will read the following and feel the same pride I do in the good that Rotary does. Note: this is e-mail correspondence and the messages appear in reverse order, with the most current message first.*

*- Phil Morris, DG 7690.*

From: Marie Connelly <marieconnelly@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 9:05 AM

Subject: Bringing three continents to one through service

Hey everyone!

I'm writing to send ya'll an update about my service adventures. Another Rotary scholar from Canada, Natalia, and I have joined forces to establish a program that provides aid to international students (young teenagers) studying in Armenteros. As you can read in the email conversation below, this idea sprung from a petition from one of my friends in the states.

In short, Fundacion Armenteros is a scholarship program that brings students from poor countries throughout the world to the isolated village of Armenteros in the Salamanca providence to formalize their juvenile education. They generally stay 2 years, and those with the highest marks have the opportunity to pursue further education in the University of Salamanca. Funds cover room, board and tuition, and are provided primarily by the priest who runs the program and a few subsidiary government agencies.

Because these students come from virtually nothing, they generally bring nothing with them, and when they need new clothes, or particulars such as toiletries their families are unable to provide. Through Rotary, with the cooperative efforts of members and scholars, we want to establish a program that will meet the needs, both physical and financial of these students. As of now Natalia and I plan to visit Armentero with the director of Santander Bank, also a Rotarian, this upcoming week to get a better idea of the needs of these people, and how we can address them. We currently are thinking of developing a program involving the participation of all the sponsoring clubs of Rotary Scholars currently in Spain (Japan, NC, SC, Chicago, Canada), provided all these clubs support the idea, which will both build a bridge of collaborative cross-continental philanthropy, and raise awareness for this cause.

I realize the plans are not yet definitive, but I wanted to keep you all up to date on our activities and progresses. What do you think? Anyone have any suggestions? Thank you all and I can't wait to get back to share my stories

Sincerely,  
Marie

PS - I will be attending meetings of at least five different clubs in Spain!

From: Terry Ferrer

Date: Thu, 3 Nov 2005 09:50:23 -0800 (PST)

Subject: About

To: Marie Connelly <marieconnelly@gmail.com>

Hi Marie,

Hope you were able to recover your phone! It was great speaking to you yesterday.

Lots I'd like to talk to you about...and see if you can help us in finding out some info....

- 1) I tried calling Javier Cuenca Blazquez on his cell, but, a lady answered the phone and she did not know who he was. Could you check the number below and see if it's ok. Thanks!
- 2) I spoke with Ellen (the US sponsor) last night and she had a question that I could not answer...she was asking me if the institute is a mix of students in need and students that are economically fine? btw...Ellen said that she is ready to wire money as soon as we are able to do so (I told her what you said about being able to buy everything there and she said that that would be fine with her).
- 3) Marie, what do you think would be a reasonable amount for monthly toiletries and personal expenses for Dina? We don't want her to be spoiled by having too much...it would not be good for her in the long term. (We may try to find out exactly what she thinks she would need and then find out how much it would cost.... but just want a 'guesstimate' for now).
- 4) As far as delivering items to her.... do you know what the rotary is thinking.... i.e. once a month? (I think this would be good but maybe they prefer to do something less frequent.... like once every other month?)
- 5) Do you know if the attorney has been able to reach her? I know you said you may be seeing him today. If you think it is best, I can try calling him...Just let me know. Don't mean to put too much on you....
- 6) I spoke with Fr. Herald today.... If the rotary would like to help other Honduran students (it sounded that way from earlier emails...but NO problem if they don't), Fr. Herald said that he would be able to find out from First Lady personnel, who would be the students who would need the most help (apparently some came from Honduran orphanages).

Whatever you can do to answer these questions would be GREATLY appreciated.... if not, let me know who may be able to help in answering some of these.... Fr. Herald has been trying to reach Dina (yesterday and today) but has not been successful. We are thinking that perhaps her use of Internet and phone may be limited (?)...Not sure.

Well, Marie, thanks again for so caringly reaching out to help Dina.

God's peace as you continue to discern your future path.... let's keep talking about that. I will send you another email with some info on Right to Life/Respect for Life orgs.

Terry

Marie Connelly <marieconnelly@gmail.com> wrote:

---

Hey Terry! Great news.

I spoke with two of the Rotarians here in Salamanca and they are both willing to work with us on this project. The first man is named Javier Cuenca Blazquez, who is the director of Santander Central Hispano bank. He has agreed to open an account in his bank where our doctor friend can wire money, and from there we will purchase any and everything Dina needs. If you speak Castellano (which I assume you do as you're traveling to Honduras so soon!), it would be great for you to give him a call so we can get this project rolling and get Dina taken care of. Javier's phone numbers are 011-34-923-278-004 (office, which is only open until 2:30pm Spain time (we're 6 hours ahead of USA)), and 011-34-678-548-560 (movil).

I also spoke with my Rotarian tutor, Emilio Gonzales-Coria Gomez, who is a lawyer here in Salamanca. I gave him the phone number for Dina's place in Armenteros (923-49-02-02), and he is going to call there to find out exactly what she needs. If you need to get in touch with him, his office number is 011-34-923-122-284, and his cell is 011-34-649-84-60-50.

My experience with rotary has been astounding. The club in Salamanca almost always has rotary scholars like myself, and after talking with my tutor today; we agreed this would be a great project for the students to perpetuate. It would be ideal to open the account in Javier's name, since the scholars come and go, but to allow the students to be responsible for coordinating and delivering the packages to the children in Armentos. What do you think? I am still without a phone, but i should have one by 8 or so Spain time (2pm yours!) If you want to give me a call after 3, feel free! My cell is 011-34-697-428-700. I look forward to hearing from you and I'm exited to be able to help with this.

On 11/2/05, Terry Ferrer <hishonduras@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Marie,

Hope this finds you well.

In the event that you see or are able to contact Dina sooner than later, thought I should send this email now rather than later. When/if you do contact her would you kindly ask her for this information:

- Her correct email address (and how often she checks it)
- Best time to reach her by phone (and time difference)
- Phone number(s) to reach her at
- An address where letters and perhaps small packages can be sent to

If the rotary agrees to get involved, it may be helpful to have their contact information too (someone's email address, phone number and best time to call). Please feel free to share my information with them.

Terry Ferrer  
CFR Honduras Mission Liaison  
520 Warwick Tpke.  
Hewitt, NJ 07421  
(973) 222-8493 cell  
(973) 853-5701 (phone at home and fax)  
Email: hishonduras@yahoo.com

Sorry, if I seem to be getting ahead of myself with this.... I'm just really excited that this whole thing may fall into place beautifully. Whatever you can do (and whenever) is sincerely and greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much, Marie!!

Christ's peace,

Terry

Marie Connelly <marieconnelly@gmail.com> wrote:

---

Hey Terry,

Sorry about the empty email! I'm actually not sure where Dina's town is. I'm not sure if you're familiar with the geographic subdivisions of Spain, so here's a briefing - their communities are like our states and they have provinces, which are like our counties. Salamanca is both a city and a province. I'm in the city of Salamanca, and her pueblo is somewhere in the province (which isn't too big). I've got a few maps of Spain and I can't find the town on those, probably because it's so small! As soon as I resolve my telephone issues, I'll give her a ring as well.

As for now, I will speak with my personal rotary counselor tomorrow afternoon to see what he thinks about me joining them for the meeting Thursday night. I'm pretty confident they would be willing to help her out. I'll send you an email update tomorrow after i speak with my counselor, and hopefully after i speak with Dina as well! btw - does Dina speak any English, or just Spanish?

Thanks a million and I wish you blessings as well,

Marie

On 11/1/05, Terry Ferrer <hishonduras@yahoo.com > wrote:

---

Hi Marie,

Thank you so very much for being willing to help our Honduras mission with this. I have found a woman in the States that would be willing to sponsor her. Perhaps we can all work together. The first thing is: we need to find Dina. I emailed both, her and the institute (though not sure I had the correct email address for Dina), but have not heard back. We want to find out her current needs. I had received some information saying that she needed a backpack, heavier clothes and hair accessories. I was thinking about trying to call there tomorrow. Are you close enough to the school that you can try to find her and talk to her personally?

It would be ideal to find out what the rotary would be willing to do. Maybe, they can work together with the woman I found here (who is a doctor and is willing to sponsor Dina).... So perhaps the woman here can send the funds (say, via wire transfer) to the rotary and they would be willing to buy and deliver what Dina will need in the future.... That's just one way/idea.

I will send you another email with links to the school, more information on Dina and a little about the program.

Please send me a quick email so that I know you have received this. I would also love to hear what the rotary says.... I will travel to Honduras Nov 8-19th. Timing is ideal is that we can try to get something in place (hoping) between now and the 8th and then I can try to find out any other answers that are needed once I get to Honduras (I can talk to Dina's mom, etc.) Access to email and phone though will be somewhat limited once I get there, but, we should be able to stay in contact.

Thanks again Marie.  
God's blessings to you as you come to the end of your time in Spain.

Terry

---

Marie Connelly <marieconnelly@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Terry, Mary, and Stan,

Sorry for the delayed response!! If you have not yet found a sponsor for Dina, I am more than willing to take her whatever she needs as I'm in Salamanca on a Rotary scholarship until the end of November. I would also love to put her in contact with the Rotarians here in Salamanca so if she needs anything after I leave, she will have a great contact nearby. I am planning on going to the Rotary meeting tomorrow (Thursday) to tell them about Dina and ask for their support. Can you give me more information on her and her program? If you need to reach me, you can email (marieconnelly@gmail.com) or call at 011-34-923-186-366 (house) or 011-34-697-428-700 (cell), but try not to call until tomorrow evening because my phone was either lost or stolen and I need to take care of that before I can receive any calls on my cell phone :)

Amor y paz,

Marie

---

From: Terry Ferrer [mailto: [hishonduras@yahoo.com](mailto:hishonduras@yahoo.com)]

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 11:32 PM

To: [hishonduras@yahoo.com](mailto:hishonduras@yahoo.com)

Subject: Spain contact

Hello to all,

Once again I come to you to ask for direction or tap into your knowledge to see if we can help a young girl from our neighborhood in Honduras. Dina Roxana, who comes from an extremely poor family, was elected and received a scholarship to study in Spain for 2 years. We would like to help provide for her personal needs (i.e. toiletries, clothes, school supplies, etc.) while she is there. Ideally, we are looking for someone who travels to Spain regularly (to the area where she is, per below) who would be willing to carry the items to her. Another alternative would be to find someone in Spain who would be willing to sponsor her. If you know of anyone or can refer me to anyone, I would appreciate it. If you have any other ideas, I am open to hearing those too.

Blessings,  
Terry

Links below: Photos of Honduras' First Lady and Honduran students arriving in Spain and info about the institute.....

[http://www.casapresidencial.hn/2005/08/19\\_2.php](http://www.casapresidencial.hn/2005/08/19_2.php)

<http://usuarios.lycos.es/julianarmenteros/index.php>

<http://usuarios.lycos.es/julianarmenteros/modules.php?name=coppermine>

<http://usuarios.lycos.es/julianarmenteros/modules.php>

[?name=coppermine&file=thumbnails&album=9](http://usuarios.lycos.es/julianarmenteros/modules.php?name=coppermine&file=thumbnails&album=9)