

Rotary District 5495

District Grant Final Report

Due April 30, 2025 – Complete at Conclusion of Project

Project Title: Watts of Love, Solar Light & Financial Literacy

Rotary Club of: Goodyear PebbleCreek.

Person Completing this form: Colleen Malany

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Project Description

1. Briefly describe the project outcomes. What was done (in 100 words or less)? The 75 lights funded by this District Grant were part of a larger distribution conducted on 3/16-18, 2025. In total, 185 families received a light. We were still in the Northern Rangeland Trust, but farther north...almost to Ethiopia. Counties included were Marsabit, Samburu, & Isiolo. There was a minimum of two (2) local leaders per distribution already trained in the distribution process & financial literacy program by the local NRT partner which enabled us to spend more time with each individual working on their empowerment form resulting from the financial literacy education given and teaching the use & care of their new solar light. Eighteen of the 75 lights were given with Student of the Month's names on the boxes (8 from Millenium HS & 8 from Desert Edge HS). April's Student of the Month's names will go on boxes when the local partner distributes lights again. They were not chosen at the time of the trip. We also revisited 1 village (Karare) who had received lights/training the previous day and then 3 villages who had received lights 2 years prior. The impact was astounding. The women in Karare were surprised how bright the light was. They had no challenges the first night of having their light. They were very happy! One woman indicated that instead of saving the 20 shillings/day, she would save 60 shillings/day to speed up buying chickens. This would enable her to sell eggs at the market which would result in more "new money" coming into her household. In one night she was empowered.

When: March 14-21, 2025; Where: Villages: Lokileleng Village, Karare Village, Bubisa Village, Kambi Nyoka Village, Kambinye Village, Parkishon Village. Marsabit County, Kenya
Northern Rangeland Trust area of Kenya.

Who were the beneficiaries? 27 families in Lokileleng Village, 25 families in Karare Village, & 23 families in Bubisa Village

1. How many Rotarians participated in the project? (3) from a team of 9
2. What did they do? Please give at least two examples. Distributed lights, taught the villagers how to use & take care of the lights, helped to fill out their empowerment sheets, spoke with chiefs & leaders about following up with their people to make sure they were able to use their lights successfully and that they began saving the money they no longer spent on kerosene, paraffin, or batteries. Discussed the impact that immediately would be felt by their community and the possibilities and opportunities that would ensue.

3. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project? 75 families. In addition, 10 employees of the lodge we stayed in received training and a light. They will be safer traveling to and from work as well as benefit to their families. If the average family consists of 5 members, then over 400 people were impacted by the family receiving a light.

4. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project? To begin with, in the first 3 villages we visited each family was renting a solar light. These lights were of inferior grade & already damaged. They had to pay 1000 shillings (\$7.75) up front and pay 20 shillings (15 cents) every day or the light would be turned off. This is the amount of money they can save each day now that they have their Watts of Love solar light.

On a revisit to a village that was made up of 4 communities of approximately 100 families each. Three of the communities received 6 lights and the 4th had received 7 only 2 years ago. We interviewed 3 women from the village that received 7 lights-that's 7 lights shared by 100 people! The government had erected a greenhouse structure for them. With the money they saved, they had planted seeds and purchased fertilizer (to start off with). They were growing produce year-round-spinach, green onions, carrots, black-eyed peas and more. Not only were they able to feed their families enough food, but the women also took extra to market and sold it (new money). They also now have 3 bee hives that they extract honey from & use as an anti-venom serum, selling both at market. A pipe carries water into their village and many times it would break or leak. Before having their solar light, they would go weeks or months until they could fix the pipes. Women walked 2 hours each way for water. They now have an "emergency fund", so they can fix the pipe immediately. Our goal is to have all 400 families have lights within the next 2 years...hopefully sooner. The impact appears greater when the people work together, combining their savings so that they can benefit as an entire community. It's truly amazing. At another distribution of new lights, there were 40 women representing their families. After we went through the distribution process and the financial literacy program, the women grouped themselves into four groups of 10. These 10 appointed a "treasurer" of the group. They planned to save their 20 shillings/day individually, but then pool some of their saved money into one big bank kept by the treasurer. Their dream was to start a grocery store as a group with the money they saved together. These are the types of goals these women are setting for themselves and their families. As we tell them, "It is possible". They say it as well! It is so hopeful.

5. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role? Watts of Love coordinated fielding the distribution team, sent the lights over ahead of time, and arranged all of the logistics of the trip. The in-country partner had locals trained for each distribution prior to our arrival. They were able to translate into the local language at each distribution.

Financial Report (Use second page, if needed. District must receive receipts of all expenditures)

6. Income Amount

1. District Grant funds received from the District	\$2500
2. Club funds	\$1250
3. Other funding (specify) Click or tap here to enter text.	00
4. Other funding (specify) Click or tap here to enter text.	00
Total Project Income	\$3750

7. Expenditures (please be specific)

1. 75 lights delivered to villages @\$50 each - manufacturer to families	\$3750
2. Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Total Project Expenditures	\$3750

Income and expenditures must balance.

Please save this form (PDF only) and upload, with all project receipts (also PDF), to the Documents section of your project page at rotarygrants.org

Photos are appreciated and may be uploaded to the photo section of your grant's page on the website.

By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all the information contained herein is true and accurate.

Club President Signature: *Mary Kay Utecht*

Date: *4/2/2025*
Click or tap to enter a date.

Club President printed name: Mary Kay Utecht
Email: mutecht07@gmail.com