

## Letter of Interest from Mercy Corps



Dear Dr. William Sager;

It was good to meet you in Portland at our office on June 9th during the Grass Roots Soccer presentation at Mercy Corps. I am regrettably sorry that I have been out of the country and unable to maintain voice- or email-communication until now.

I read with interest your proposal to the Rotary Club. The goals and objectives seem very worthy. However, Mercy Corps is neither registered nor currently working in the DRC, and therefore cannot be identified as an implementing partner on this proposal. Regrettably, we can not therefore be listed as a participating agency.

Please do, however, keep us posted as to the success of this proposal. If it is successful, we may be able to provide some material aid donations (sports apparel, etc) to support this project. I am enclosing a copy of the MC proposal form that we require to be filled out, for all our applications, in the event you wish to pursue a material aid donation for the project, should it be awarded.

If you decide to submit a proposal and have questions on its content, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Again, it was good to meet you when you were in Portland, and I wish you the best of luck in your work.

Sincerely,

Gary Waltenbaugh  
Director, Material Aid Mercy Corps  
3015 SW First Avenue  
Portland, OR. 97201  
503-796-6821



October 29, 2005

The Rotary Foundation  
Adam McCormick, Grant Coordinator  
1650 Sherman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201-3698

Dear Mr. McCormick:

I am writing to express support for the Rotary Foundation Grant for Hunger, Health & Humanitarian Grant for in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Grant #57915. This grant would facilitate development activities in a very poor region of the Congo where other resources for health, nutrition and community development are scarce.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been working with the Presbyterian congregations in the West Kasai region of the Congo for over a hundred years, and our partner church, the Presbyterian Community of the Congo is very strong in the Kananga region.

We believe that our Presbyterian partners in the Congo, some are who are members of the Rotary Club in Kananga, D.R. Congo, will continue to support the development activities after the three year period covered by a grant expires. Please let us know if we can help with the implementation of this grant.

Sincerely,

Bob Ellis  
Coordinator

## **ADAPT Committee - Rotary Club of Ashland**

October 29, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ashland Drug Awareness, Prevention, and Treatment (ADAPT) Committee of the Rotary Club of Ashland, Oregon has met with Dr. William Sager of our club's World Community Service Committee who is sponsoring and applying for a joint 3-H Rotary Foundation Grant # 57915.

The program for which this application is intended offers great interest to our ADAPT Committee's principal interests. The ADAPT Committee was formed some time ago to encourage youth in our community to avoid the dangers and harm of substance abuse, namely recreational drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

We have discussed with Dr. William Sager the possibilities of a joint and collaborative effort with our club's World Community Service Committee's 3 H program in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The African international partner club in Kananga is proposing to form a Rotary Community Corps with select students having completed Rotary sponsored educational forums in the Kasai Province who show demonstrable respect among their peers at the meetings. These youth then can be encouraged to be Rotary Corps spokespersons in verbally addressing and demonstrating healthy, wholesome behavior and responsible ethical life styles in their local schools and communities.

Our ADAPT Committee sees an opportunity for our Ashland Club to also form a mirrored Rotary Community Corps to address problems in our own community. While the Kananga Rotary Club primarily would address healthy gender relationships among youth as it relates to HIV/AIDS, our principal interest would relate, not only to healthy gender relationships, but also focus on the dangers of substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, tobacco and calories).

We see opportunities and enrichment for each other's programs with possibilities for American youth to communicate with Congolese youth in regard to their different community health concerns (successes, failures and shared ideas).

It is our intent to pursue this to the extent that we find it helpful to our goals as a committee of our Rotary Club.

Members of our committee have already collected very important local middle school and high school data to assist us in formulating a program. (Please see attachments) The development of our program would take time. We intend to begin cautiously and carefully. As we become more comfortable and see our efforts mature we would like to consider the possibility of forming a youth Rotary Community Corps and link our program with that of the Health Hunger and Humanity Program.

Sincerely,  
Ron Bolstad, Chairman  
ADAPT Committee  
Rotary Club of Ashland  
P. O. Box 51, Ashland, Oregon 97520

**The University of Texas  
Health Science Center  
7703 Floyd Curl Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78229-7870**

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my interest in fostering a collaboration with Dr. Sager and the 3-H Rotary AIDS prevention program. Dr. Sager and I have spoken about the potential outcomes and possibilities of establishing this team and feel that it could have a tremendous impact on further understanding, dissecting, preventing and controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The focus of my research involves understanding the host genetic determinants of HIV pathogenesis and transmission. There is evidence which suggests that host genetic factors (i.e., genetic polymorphisms) play an important role in determining susceptibility to HIV infection and disease progression. We have discovered that in each population, the repertoire of host genetic alleles that influence susceptibility is unique. Furthermore, our research has demonstrated that there are significant inter-individual and inter-population differences in the copy number of a particular gene, which ultimately affects the transmission and progression of HIV.

Dr. Sager's intended project will help to prevent the spread of HIV by influencing behavior changes through educating and informing the Kananga area. Meanwhile, I hope to glean further insight into the genetic component of this population so as to gather additional information for the understanding of the scientific transmission and progression of HIV. Setting up this collaboration with Dr. Sager will provide research with a unique and informative cohort to further dissect the genetic basis of HIV infection.

In speaking with Dr. Sager it is evident that both of our efforts are concentrated toward preventing the spread of HIV infection. Working together can provide a unique, successful, and innovative approach to making this happen and I look forward to establishing this collaboration.

Sincerely yours,

Sunil K. Ahuja, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology  
Director, VA HIV/AIDS Center