**Description of the 2020 Vocational Study Exchange (VSE)**

**Between D-4355, Chile and D-6080, Missouri, USA**

**Travel dates: Outgoing Team from D-6080 (MO) to D-4355 (Chile) from April 29 to May 20, 2020**

**Application deadline: November 11, 2019**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Vocational Study Exchange (VSE) is to establish good will and understanding among team members and Rotarians in both districts while developing and formulating the necessary skills in one’s profession to implement a literacy service project in communities within D-4355 in southern Chile.

**Brief description of Project:**

District 4355 conducted a community needs assessment and found out that community school districts shared a universal need in a focus area of literacy. According to the Major of Schools, the overall literacy rate was within norms but literacy, in terms of reading comprehension in Spanish and English, were significantly below norms and therefore was a hindrance to learning.

Leaders of the VSE project from both districts developed an overall goal; To improve outcomes of reading comprehension scores of children through focused curriculum study and instruction, and through motivational teaching methods and strategies. It was found that schools have minimal or no computer access and software, such as, interactive software that can help motivate children with the desire to read. The DGE of District 4355 has set a priority in the use of DDF and matching club funds to purchase computers and software in identified schools in need that wish to participate in the project.

District 6080 will host the VSE team of District 4355 with the goal of helping team members develop the knowledge and skills necessary to develop curriculum and teaching strategies to improve reading comprehension. The team develop a recommended list of interactive software that motivates children with the desire to read. District 6080 will provide learning experiences from experts and mentors in the field, including but not limited to those in libraries, education institutions, boards of education, curriculum and instruction departments, drama/theatre, and education suppliers.

District 4355 will host the VSE team of District 6080 with the goal of supporting and providing train the trainer classes in participating schools in need throughout the district. In the process both teams will work in collaboration with the local schools to meet the students’ individual needs. The team will also provide computer and software instruction as needed. It is the intent that members of D4355 team will participate with D6080 team members in the train the trainer programs, considering where they live and travel distances. D 4355’s district conference will be held from May 15 to May 17, 2020 and it is anticipated the both teams will present a joint program during the conference.

**Exchange dates:**

* District 4355’s Vocational Study Exchange (VSE) Team will come to Missouri and be hosted in District 6080 from March 31 to April 21, 2020.
* District 6080’s Vocational Study Exchange (VSE) Team will go to Chile and be hosted in District 4355 from April 29 to May 20, 2020.

**Team composition:**

* The team will be comprised of a Team Leader and three Team Members.
* The Team Leader must be a Rotarian with known leadership skills and the ability to lead the team in the service project/vocational study.
* Team members may include Rotarians, Rotaractors, and non-Rotarians from D6080. They are selected based on their vocational contribution, commitment, and engagement in the area of service to the project. A working knowledge of the Spanish language is desired.
* All team members must be willing to abide by the agreement between both districts and be individuals of good character.
* Obligations and responsibilities are listed in the application.

**Team application deadlines and interview dates:**

* Team Leader and Team Member Applications are due by November 11, 2019.
* Interviews for Team Leader applicants will be conducted on November 14, 2019 (Location to be determined).
* Interviews for Team Member applicants will be conducted on November 23, 2019. (Location to be determined).
* Dates may be subject to change.

**VSE Forms and Resources available on Rotary District 6080 Website at rotary6080.org**

* **VSE Program Handbook**
* **Team Member Application**
* **Team Member Application**