



Redwood Christian Schools
Al Hearne II, Superintendent

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Redwood Christian Schools Makes a Difference Internationally – *Breathing for Life*

Redwood Christian Schools is combining forces to raise funds for the Castro Valley Rotary Club to equip an oxygen facility in Africa. We will be joining multiple international organizations, including the East African Medical Relief Foundation (eamrf.org), to complete a project that will benefit the people in the West Oromia region of Nejo, West Africa, that has 2.5 million people and only six hospitals.

The project is called *Breathing for Life*. More *Breathing for Life* information is available at www.castrovalleyrotary.org.

Our focus is the 500,000 subsistence farmers with a high infant mortality rate and very poor maternal care. The \$350,000 facility will provide these families with what we take for granted: **breathing air**. Our RCS goal is to raise \$2,500, which will then be matched. It would be great if we could raise \$5,000 to be matched! The program is within \$50,000 of making its overall goal. The RCS Community gets to be part of this great work! Praise God!

Until the facility is completed, the only source of oxygen for this region is in Addis Ababa, **ten to twelve hours** away. Can you imagine having to walk ten to twelve hours to have your little air tank filled? Unbelievable challenge! The oxygen generator will be based in Nejo and will supply all six hospitals. Just think of how many lives will be saved! What a tremendous opportunity! In addition, we have a donor who will match all gifts received up to \$50,000, so every \$1 donated is actually \$2.

We have been involved in international programs for years through our mission's ministry. Trips, supporting missionaries and partnering with other Kingdom organizations like East African Medical Relief Foundation. During the 2013-14 school year, the students of the Redwood Christian Elementary (RCE) campus worked with the East African Medical Relief Foundation to raise funds to place books in Ethiopian school libraries, which had the buildings but only a few books. The students raised more than \$2,700 to purchase books for the Biftu Gimbi Elementary School and Jarso High School. During the 2014-15 school year, more than \$700 was raised to provide additional books. Having an international presence prepares our students for many of the global issues that are facing Christians now and in the years to come, while allowing them to see the results of their efforts on behalf of Jesus.

The Rotary Club of Castro Valley was so blessed by the Redwood Christian Elementary responses and the active support of RCE Principal Dale Huemoeller for the libraries. Now we have the privilege to be involved in the *Breathing for Life* project and see it to its completion. The Rotary Club of Castro Valley has submitted the required paperwork and Rotary International has approved the project for matching funds. Superintendent Emeritus Bruce Johnson has been an active Rotary member for twenty years and has been involved with this project since its inception. Superintendent Al Hearne supports *Breathing for Life* stating, "It's great to challenge our kids to help other kids from around the world. Imagine kids breathing 'good air.' We take this for granted."

We will take an offering at the MSHS chapel on February 15 and February 22, and at the RCE chapel on February 17 and February 24. Checks and cash are always welcomed. Please make all checks payable to Rotary District 5170 and write *Breathing for Life* on the memo line. Credit card contributions can also be made using Give Direct at <https://www.givedirect.org/donate/?cid=1264> and click on *Breathing for Life* in the drop down menu. This campaign concludes on February 24, 2017.

Your faithful support of international projects is always a real encouragement.

Blessings!

Al Hearne, II
Al Hearne II, Superintendent

Bruce D. Johnson
Bruce D. Johnson, Superintendent Emeritus