

J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust GRANTS AWARDED IN 2012

The J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust is a charitable fund established in the memory of Kirby Simon, a Foreign Service Officer who died in 1995 while serving in Taiwan. The Trust is committed to expanding the opportunities for community service, professional fulfillment and personal well-being of Foreign Service Officers and Specialists and their families. The Trust has been funded with contributions from Kirby Simon's colleagues, friends and relatives and other persons interested in the purposes of the Trust. The trustees are present or former members of the Foreign Service – State Department community and Kirby Simon's parents.

In the Fall of 2011, the Trust once again invited proposals for the support, in 2012, of projects initiated and carried out by Foreign Service personnel or members of their families, or by other U. S. Government employees employed at American diplomatic posts abroad. In response to this invitation, the Trust received 96 proposals from 66 countries. With its modest resources, the Trust was able to provide funding for 54 of these projects representing 43 countries. Grants ranged from \$500 to \$3,000 for a total of \$110,833.

The following pages describe the projects supported by the Trust in 2012. (Material in quotation marks is taken from the proposals describing the projects.)

AZERBAIJAN – BAKU – Beds, linens, and washing machine for a street children's shelter – a project proposed by Sirli Hill, Consular Affairs, Vice Consul and Evangeline Taylor, Co-Community Liaison Office Coordinator

Since 2007 when the Street Children's Shelter was opened by the Azerbaijani Children's Union (ACU) in Baku, Azerbaijan, over 1,000 children, who would otherwise be living in the streets with no access to education or health care, have been provided with basic food and shelter and community services, including education, health care, and legal support. "Services at the ACU are supported by numerous organizations, but finding funding has been difficult due to the local government's resistance to recognizing the 'undocumented' children they serve."

In addition to several other projects by the U. S. Embassy Public Affairs Section, "on September 11, 2011, in honor of the 10th anniversary of 9-11, Embassy volunteers participated in a joint community volunteer event at the shelter, where family members and volunteers refurbished a bedroom with Embassy-donated beds and bookshelves."

Given the large numbers of children served, the Embassy's donations were still inadequate to provide decent sleeping arrangements for all"

Funds from the Trust were used to purchase 3 sets of bunk beds, mattresses and linens and a washing machine needed to keep the linens clean.

BARBADOS – BRIDGETOWN – A water tank and board games for a shelter for abused women and their children - a project proposed by David Lewis, Political Officer, Political/Economic Section

Although domestic violence is a major problem in Barbados, affecting as many as 30% of adult women in intimate relationships, the Shelter for Abused Women, established in 1999 by the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW), is the only shelter on the island supporting victims of domestic violence. "While the Shelter receives some support from the Barbados government, the funding is insufficient to account for the myriad costs and services needed to keep it running."

During hurricane season and crop harvesting season, the shelter often experiences water shortages, making hygiene and comfort difficult. BPW has identified the lack of a water tank as a primary concern for the shelter. "A small group of Embassy employees have adopted the Shelter and have been organizing monthly activities that are designed to lift the spirits of the children living there," but they recognize that a water container will make life easier for all residents during the storm season.

Funds from the Trust are being used to purchase and install a water tank and to purchase board games to support the Embassy's community service project.

BOLIVIA – LA PAZ – The refurbishment of a cancer clinic – a project proposed by Megan Gallardo, Office Management Specialist and Kathleen Glaser, RN, Nurses Practitioner, Foreign Service Specialist.

"In a five-continent study by the International Association for Research on Cancer, Bolivia has one of the highest incidence rates for cervical cancer in the world." "The American Cancer Society's cervical cancer rates are much higher, and also reports the incidence breast cancer throughout South America at 26.4%." "In Bolivia, there are only six radiation therapy centers in the country compared to the United States, where there are 1,875 operating centers."

"At the Hospital de Clinicas' treatment center in La Paz, patients without private insurance line up outside the facility as early as 0300 or 0400 in the morning, with the

hope of being seen by a doctor that day.” “The U. S. Embassy’s Community Service Program would like to help support La Paz’ only public radiation treatment facility by creating a protected outdoor waiting area and refurbish the existing indoor waiting room, public restroom and radiation treatment room.”

Funds from the Trust are being used to repair the bathrooms and a leak in the roof over the radiation area, construct an outdoor shelter and purchase indoor seating.

BRAZIL – RIO DE JANEIRO – Construction of a room to accommodate children over age 13 at a shelter for abused or abandoned children – a project proposed by Susan K. Keyack, Vice Consul

Lar Beneficiente Amar (LBA), currently housing 21 children, ages 2 to 13, is a home for children who are victims of abuse or who have no family members to care for them. “LBA is a small facility with only one bedroom for the children, one for the caregivers, and one bathroom for all to share.” “Pursuant to Brazilian law, children over the age of 13 must be housed in separate accommodations.” Due to this law, children reaching age 13 must be transferred to other facilities until they reach age 18. “This is a very stressful time for children and the home, as the children are forced to leave their familiar caregivers and the other children who they consider to be their families.”

Funds from the Trust are providing construction materials to build a separate room for children over 13 so they can remain at LBA. “The grant applicant and other volunteers from the Post will participate in the actual construction of the facility.”

BRAZIL – BRASILIA – Providing books and basic furniture for a reading room/library and locking storage cabinets for supplies at a school serving orphans and children from disadvantaged neighborhoods – a project proposed by Amy Zimmerman, wife of Jeff Zimmerman, Agricultural Attaché for USDA/FAS.

Since August 2011, Project TEACH, which was started by the grant applicant, has been raising money and donating hundreds of hours of volunteer service to support a school where many orphans and children from disadvantaged neighborhoods attend. The money they raised went to purchase books and learning materials and to buy vegetables and meat to supplement the basic non-perishable food diet provided by the government. In the short time since they started, Project TEACH has seen great improvements in attendance, reading ability and enthusiasm for learning.

Funds from the Trust will enhance Project TEACH by paying for textbooks, workbooks, early readers in Portuguese, some bean bag chairs and a couch for the reading area,

and locking storage cabinets to safely store the donated books and educational materials.

BURMA – RANGOON – Startup costs for community bakery / jobs training center for disadvantaged young adults – a project proposed by Heatherly Bucher, EFM spouse of Air Force Attaché Lt. Col. Michael Bucher.

“The Bakehouse will operate under Helping Hands, a well-established non-profit organization in Yangon.” “The Helping Hands Bakehouse will provide a livelihood for Burmese youth through a training program for bakers and baker assistants to enter the hotel/restaurant business and in stage two offering quality European breads and baked specialties for sale to hotels and restaurants.” The grant applicant, Heather Bucher, is “an accomplished baker and corporate business woman and she will provide operational assistance to create the program and volunteer to train the initial set of bakers/baker assistants.”

Funds from the Trust are paying for the necessary equipment for Stage One of the project. In Stage Two, the bakery will become self-supporting by selling its products to hotels and restaurants.

CAMEROON – YAOUNDE – A self-sustaining sewing workshop and boutique at a school for the deaf – a project proposed by Fara-Jeanne Voahirana Nguyen, spouse of the U. S. Embassy’s Management Officer, Chanh Nguyen.

ESEDA (Ecole Specialisee pour Enfants Deficients Auditifs) is the only school for the deaf in Yaounde and has 250 students, ages 3 to 21. Created in 1972 by a French nun, ESEDA receives no financial assistance from the Cameroonian government. Before this project, the sewing workshop had one sewing teacher and only one working sewing machine. Volunteers are donating supplies to paint the workshop and the shelves. Once the workshop is cleaned up, 10 new sewing machines will allow more students to participate in sewing classes where they will be taught to produce simple but high quality products, like napkins, table clothes, aprons and reusable shopping bags which they will sell in the boutique. With the help of Goodwill Cameroon, a NGO started in 1996 to promote the rights and social integration of the disabled in Cameroon, the grant applicant will teach the teacher and students marketing, business management and accounting skills enabling the sewing workshop and boutique to become self-sustaining.

Funds from the Trust are paying for the 10 sewing machines, irons and ironing boards, a locking cupboard and fabric and supplies to get the project started.

CHAD – N'DJAMENA – Providing cataract treatment equipment and training – a project proposed by Scott W. Fleming, CRNP, FSHP, Health Unit.

“Chad is one of the most impoverished African nations with very limited but emerging healthcare infrastructure.” “With 14 million residents, Chad has only 355 physicians, including Doctors Without Borders, Red Cross and Faith Based NGO's and only 5 ophthalmologists.” “There is only one hospital where cataract procedures can be carried out and this one hospital uses basic technology from the 1970's. It is estimated that there is a backlog of over 3,000 indigent Chadians requiring cataract procedures.”

“The goal of this project is to reduce the mortality related to blindness caused by cataracts by setting up the ‘Phaco System’ which involves a machine that uses ultrasound technology through a small 2 mm incision and then liquefies and evacuates the cataract. Training for Chadian Ophthalmologists, and all supportive staff is part of the project. The grant applicant has obtained donations of the necessary machine and much of the money needed to carry out this project. Funds from the Trust will help to implement this important project.

CHINA – BEIJING – A classroom and an outdoor play area for a foster home – a project proposed by Jake Torrens, 13 year old son of Col. Cameron Torrens, U. S. Embassy

“Since it was founded in 1992, the Children's Hope Foundation has helped more than 5,000 orphans with special needs and children from poor families receive medical treatment.” Their recently completed foster home for children awaiting surgery had empty rooms and an outdoor courtyard with no play equipment. The young grant applicant had been volunteering at the foster home and commented that his experience showed him that “our families have so much compared to these children who have not much more than empty rooms and broken toys.”

Funds from the Trust are being used to purchase classroom furniture, books/learning materials, educational toys suitable for disabled children and an outdoor playground with jungle gym, slide and sandbox. In addition to applying for this grant, the applicant recruited volunteers to help assemble the furniture and playground equipment.

CHINA – BEIJING – Self-development programs for migrant schools – a project proposed by Laura S. Cramer, wife of Consular Officer Robert Cramer

“Migrants are those people within China from extremely impoverished regions who often uproot their families and travel to more urbanized, developed areas in search for work. Viewed as second class citizens, migrants are not official residents of the city and their children are not permitted to attend the Beijing public schools.” The migrant schools in the Beijing are all “extremely underfunded and often lacking running water, heat and qualified teachers.” “Not only do migrant students face daily hardships, they also view themselves as worthless and with little or no value to society.”

“This proposal is to fund the New Song Personal Development Resources’ program *You Are Special* (YAS) within Beijing migrant schools” in order to help the children “realize their talents, gifts and abilities and understand their innate value in society.” In this program, “certified counselors help students and their parents work through many of the issues they are battling.”

Funds from the Trust will help this effort.

CROATIA – ZAGREB – Instruction and tools for gardening and landscaping for a boarding school for children with special needs – a project proposed by Hoyt Brian Yee, Deputy Chief of Mission, U. S. Embassy

“While Croatia is a relatively affluent country on the verge of joining the European Union, its programs for children with special needs lag behind those of more developed European states.” The state-run Center for Education and Development in Zagreb provides basic education, psychological care, food and shelter and is home to 75 children and young adults ages 7 to 21. Some of the children are orphans or have been abandoned by their parents.” Lacking the means to survive on their own, with little prospect of having a stable, secure life, the young adults are forced to leave the center at age 21.”

“The goal of this project is to provide basic instruction and tools for gardening and landscaping as a way to increase the children’s self-esteem and potential for finding gainful employment when they leave the Center.”

Funds from the Trust are providing the gardening equipment and supplies needed to get the program started.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – KINSHASA – Sports equipment, books, critical thinking/strategy games and storage cabinets for a shelter/rehabilitation center for street children – a project proposed by Pamela

Schmoll, spouse of U. S. Ambassador James Entwistle and Elizabeth Larson, spouse of Public Diplomacy Officer Austin Richardson.

“O.S.E.P.E.R. (Oeuvre de Suivi d’Education et de Protection des Enfants de la Rue) is a shelter and rehabilitation center for street children ranging in age from 6-17, which not only offers immediate care and safety for the children but tends to their long-term psycho-social and educational needs as well.” This shelter protects the children from being exploited by gangs, prostitution or thieving rings. The dormitory-style house is clean and secure, but lacks resources to provide entertainment.

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase books, sports equipment and critical thinking /strategy games “which will allow the children to work in groups, pairs and independently to gain social skills and have fun.” Secure and sturdy storage containers will also be purchased to keep the new items safely stored.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – GOMA – Mattresses and protective coverings for an orphanage – a project proposed by Suzanne Truchard, Foreign Service Officer with USAID.

With financial support from “Be A Hero”, a Christian NGO in Canada, Jeanne and Prosper Mullengetsi, “known locally as Mama Jeanne and Pastor Prosper”, have grown their orphanage from space for six children in 1993 to a home where they host 141 children in a compound with dormitories, a school, gardens for fresh vegetables and chickens, rabbits and pigs which provide the children with a balanced diet. “As a result of their generosity and the caring environment they provide for children, Mama Jeanne and Pastor Prosper are flooded with requests to take in orphans.” “Be A Hero” has been unable to increase their financial support to the orphanage, and many of the children are sleeping two to a bed on the wooden planks of a bed frame.

Funds from the Trust are being used to purchase mattresses and protective covers. Among other very helpful activities for the orphanage, the grant applicant is also helping Mama Jeanne and Pastor Prosper to turn their orphanage in to a registered NGO, allowing them to increase funding opportunities.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – SANTO DOMINGO – Educational training to prevent neonatal GBS Disease – a project proposed by Valerie Nelson, spouse of Hart G. Nelson, U. S. State Department Political Officer, U. S. Embassy Santo Domingo.

“This project aims to raise awareness within and educate the medical community in the Dominican Republic regarding the prevention of neonatal GBS (Group B Strep) disease,

an easily preventable but serious infection that can cause life-threatening illness and death in newborns.” “Screening for GBS and treating GBS carriers during labor is part of a routine prenatal care plan in the United States but the prevailing medical opinion in the Dominican Republic does not promote GBS screening and antibiotic prophylaxis during labor.” Using a series of educational workshops, the campaign will highlight the improved health outcomes seen in other countries and demonstrate how the screening process and use of antibiotics are feasible locally.”

Funds from the Trust will help the grant applicant to establish a legal, non-profit entity in the Dominican Republic, and to purchase equipment and materials for the workshops.

ECUADOR – GUAYAQUIL – Sports equipment for a soccer club for street children – a project proposed by Christy Buzzard, Vice Consul, U. S. Consulate General

“The JUCONI Foundation (Junto con los Niño’s/Together with the Children) established in 1995, is committed to the eradication of child labor and provides therapeutic interventions to street-working children and their families.” “JUCONI works within the poorest and most marginalized sectors of Guayaquil and community engagement is critical to the program’s success.” “Community based activities help to break down barriers and negative stereotypes while improving communication and mutual understanding among community members.” “In Ecuador, soccer is a shared passion that transcends race, religion and social status.” “Over the years JUCONI has facilitated community soccer matches, but lack of basic resources and funding means they have not been sustainable on a long-term basis.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase equipment for the JUCONI soccer club. “Volunteers from the Consulate will attend trainings and games.”

FIJI – SUVA – Construction of a wash room at a school for disabled children - a project proposed by James Schellenger, MD, Physician, American Embassy and husband of Heidi Schellenger, Foreign Service Officer, the Embassy Suva Foreign Service Nationals Association (FSNA) and the Fiji Crippled Children’s Society (FCCS)

“The Fiji Crippled Children’s Society operates the Early Intervention Center, a non-residential school for physically and developmentally disabled children ranging in age from 2 to 8 years old.” The Fijian education system does not have the capability to meet the needs of these children, who have a variety of conditions such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, learning disabilities and communication disorders, but

does contribute grants for operation expenses. However, these grants are not sufficient to meet the endless needs of the school. The EIC has identified a pressing one-time need: a washroom providing privacy and reasonable hygiene where the children who soil their clothes with stool and urine can be cleaned up and their clothing washed.

Funds from the Trust will help with the expenses of building this room.

GEORGIA – TBILISI – Materials for a breast cancer survivors' advocacy group - a project proposed by Holly Holzer Bass, wife of John R. Bass, Ambassador, U. S. Embassy and Anna Meltzer, wife of Alan Meltzer, Political and Economic Chief, U. S. Embassy

“In the Republic of Georgia, the number one cause of death for women between 14 and 49 years of age is breast cancer. Survivors face a multitude of challenges: a culture that shuns them because of their diagnosis, shame, little palliative care, little access to things like prostheses, and few people to talk to about their experiences.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to “provide initial resources to enable an existing group of more than 200 women to develop their own fundraising program, creating a low-cost solution to help survivors make their own prostheses and to knit items for sale, like baby blankets, baby hats and other items.”

GUINEA – CONAKRY – A water tank and repairs to the well and pump at a shelter / clinic for refugee children and adults – a project proposed by Lisa G. Landes, Foreign Service Health Practitioner.

“The Missionaries of Charities in Conakry, Guinea operate the Mother Teresa House that has several community outreach programs. The adult and pediatric health clinics provide medical care to refugees who are too poor to pay for services, their mother-child center provides shelter and meals for sick children and their mothers and three days per week the Sisters provide meals to those who are imprisoned at a near-by prison.” The city water system is frequently not working, forcing the Sisters to walk over 500 meters to fill their water containers and then walk back carrying heavy containers. The well and the pump at the center are dysfunctional and the water tank needs replacing.

Funds from the Trust will be used to repair the well and pump and to replace the water tank, enabling the Sisters to focus on their work of tending to those in need rather than lugging water 500 meters.

GUYANA – GEORGETOWN – An exercise/dance studio for a girl’s orphanage – a project proposed by Sean Robinson, Vice Consul and Suemayah Abu-Douleh, Vice Consul.

“St. Ann’s orphanage provides shelter and refuge for up to fifty girls from 4 to 18 years of age, many of whom have been abandoned in hospitals, run away or have been removed from physically or sexually abusive homes.” The Ursuline Sisters at St Ann’s Orphanage identified space within the home to create a room where the girls can exercise regularly and participate in dance classes. This space will elevate the girl’s self-esteem, and possibly provide job skills to the older girls who will lead the aerobics and dance classes.

Funds from the Trust will pay for the construction of the room and miscellaneous exercise equipment.

HAITI – PORT-AU-PRINCE – A water catchment system, food and educational supplies for an orphanage – a project proposed by Nicole Graber, Crisis, Stabilization, and Governance Officer.

“The Sans Universal orphanage was established after the January 2010 earthquake when many children lost their parents and were living in the streets.” With donations from various organizations, and later with fundraising efforts of the grant applicant, this orphanage has come a long way from soggy tents sitting in the mud to having platforms for the tents, a kitchen, bathrooms with showers and a school that the orphans and other children from the neighborhood attend. “The greatest need has been monthly food and water and keeping the neighborhood kids coming back to school by providing school supplies.”

Funds from the Trust will help to build a catchment and water filtering system to cut down on the expense of water, schools supplies for a semester, and repairs to the dormitory platform.

HAITI – PORT-AU-PRINCE – English language resources at a girls’ school – a project proposed by Stephanie Shore, Foreign Service Officer.

Ecole Sacre-Coeur is an all-girls school that was destroyed by the earthquake on January 12, 2010. “The school currently has classes ranging from kindergarten to senior year of high school. In comparison to other schools in Port-au-Prince, the tuition is inexpensive, thus attracting a wide range of students from modest economic backgrounds.” With a previous grant from the Kirby Simon Trust, English classes for 45

students were held every Saturday, but due to limited resources, some interested students had to be turned down.

Funds from the Trust will enable 25 volunteers from embassy community to expand the English Club by providing an English Corner in the school's library, equipped with two computers with English language learning programs, a TV and DVD player for English language DVD's, English books and grammar games.

HONDURAS – TEGUCIGALPA – Bunk beds and mattresses for children's shelter – a project proposed by Mario A. Ordonez, Purchasing Agent – NAS, U. S. Embassy and husband of Katherine Ordonez, Vice Consul.

“In Honduras, violence and economic disparity have contributed to a vulnerable population of a large number of children that live in conditions of poverty and despair, having to resort to living on the streets, with all the implications that carries, including the loss of their childhood.” Casa Alianza is a non-profit organization that provides shelter and food to 100 children, ages 12 to 18. Despite their hardships, the children always smile and are open to learning.

The shelter has an urgent need for additional bunk beds and mattresses, and funds are difficult to come by. Funds from the Trust will help with this effort.

INDIA – MUMBAI – Renovation of classrooms at a boys' shelter – a project proposed by Carsten Haas, Eligible Family Member, Carey Rudell, Vice Consul, BJ Rudell, Eligible Family Member, Phil VanHorn, Vice Consul and Nancy VanHorn, Consul.

The Reay Road Center, operated by Corp (Community Outreach Program), in one of the toughest slums in Mumbai, is a shelter for boys, ages five to 18, who are either orphaned or whose parents are unable to care for them. “The Reay Road Center already plays a vital role in the slum, providing not only shelter, education and meals to at risk boys, but offering a number of programs including health and social awareness classes, polio and immunization camps, a women's self-help group and special programs for seniors.”

Using funds from the Trust, Consulate staff and family members will renovate two classrooms at the shelter, enabling Corp to expand their educational efforts.

INDIA – NEW DELHI – Crafts education and health clinic for the “Untouchable Population” – a project proposed by Chuck Wright, Regional Medical Officer, U. S. Department of State.

“Medical care is very poor in India with only 15% of the population having medical insurance , and the other 85% having to pay cash for any medical treatment.” The Kasturbha Balika Vidhyalya School for girls, located in a very poor section of urban New Delhi, is a school of 750 girls in grades 6 – 12 and the ages of 11 – 19, 250 of whom live on campus because they are members of the former “Untouchable Caste”, now called the “Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes.” In order to provide some very basic medical care to the girls, a grant from the Trust in 2011 helped to set up a clinic at the school.

In 2012, funds from the Trust will allow the clinic to continue and will add craft training to enrich the girls’ education and add a possible means of financial support for them when they finish school.

INDIA – WEST BENGAL – A child development corner at a community center - a project proposed by Danya Sarkar, spouse of Clinton Tad Brown, Political/Economic Section Chief, and Jane Thompson – spouse of Dean Thompson, Consul General.

“Fakir Bagan slum is comprised predominantly of migrant families who are rag pickers, sweepers, domestic workers, laborers and rickshaw pullers.” Six years ago the Maternal and Young Child Health Initiative (MYCH) was started to improve health knowledge and increase access to healthcare for women and children in Fakir Bagan. “The goals of MYCH included reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, reducing child morbidity and mortality, improving birth weights, and ensuring that children aged 0 – 3 years grow normally,” and remarkable improvements were achieved.

“Proper growth during the first 3 years of a child’s life, known as the ‘critical window’ is essential to a child’s physical, mental and emotional development.” Because play is so important during this critical window, and because children in this slum have little or no access to play, this project focused on creating a safe, clean and stimulating environment where young children can play while their mothers attend community meetings and education sessions.

Funds from the Trust will be used to create a corner in the community center and to supply the area with age appropriate toys.

INDONESIA – KUPANG – Educational equipment for a kindergarten for refugees – a project proposed by Virginia C. Borden, spouse of Thurmond H. Borden, Consul General, U. S. Embassy

“Approximately 60,000 Indonesian refugees were resettled in Kupang, West Timor Province after East Timor became an independent nation in 2002.” “Kupang is one of the poorest, least developed areas of Indonesia, with 47% of the 450,000 population under age 20, where only 39% of school-age children are registered in school”, where illiteracy is rampant, unemployment is at 39% and the infant death rate is 71 per 1000.”

In order to provide day-care to pre-school children so their parents can work, “the Canossian Daughters of Charity, a Catholic charity, raised money to build a six-room kindergarten in Kupang.” “Due to lack of funds, the completion of the building and the purchase of curriculum materials and supplies were delayed.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase educational materials. Additional fund raising activities are planned by embassy volunteers.

ISRAEL – TEL AVIV – Sewing machines and occupational training at shelters for victims of human trafficking – a project proposed by Jan Cote-Cartwright, Foreign Service Officer

“According to the State Department’s June 2011 ‘Trafficking in Persons’ (TIP) report, Israel is a destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.” “Victims of trafficking in Israel are referred to shelters” which have the goals of providing safe shelter, rehabilitating and reintegrating victims of trafficking back into Israeli society, or if necessary, their countries of origin”, but Israeli government funding does not include funds for occupational training or special projects.”

This project aims to create a revenue-producing project that can be run from the shelter which would enable “the victims to gain back self-esteem and self-reliance along with obtaining badly needed marketable skills.” The grant applicant will be involved in the start-up of the ‘Sewing Center-Occupational Training’ project, and funds from the Trust will help with the expenses of purchasing the sewing machines.

JAPAN – TOKYO – Preserving memories of elderly farmers from Fukushima - a project proposed by Roshni Nirody, Foreign Service Officer, and Sara Harriger, Assistant Foreign Service Officer.

“Fukushima was Japan’s fourth largest producer of rice and second largest producer of peaches before the nuclear disaster in March, 2011.” “Approximately 80,000 farms were affected by the earthquake and tsunami, and more than 125,000 people were displaced.” “With the forced changes that will occur as Japan recovers, agricultural traditions that have been practiced for centuries will be lost. Because the average Japanese farmer is 65 years old, there is a fear that the current generation of farmers will die out without having recorded invaluable knowledge about traditional farming experiences.”

“In coordination with Umari, a local non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the role of rural Japan in the national dialogue and revitalizing rural Japan ‘s unique cultural and traditional resources”, at least 20 elderly farmers will be identified to tell their life stories, focusing on the aftermath of March 2011. “The recordings and videos will be made available through a searchable database, creating a global educational resource that puts a human face on the aftermath of one of the worst nuclear accidents in history.”

Funds from the Trust will help pay for recording equipment, transportation costs for interviewers, expenses of the translators and video editors, web hosting, and relief care packages for the displaced farmers.

KENYA – NAIROBI – School uniforms and supplies for an orphanage – a project proposed by Lauralea Gilpin, regional Contracting Officer, Lisa McGregor-Mirghani, Local Capacity Team Lead, and Lucy Segero, Human Resource Management Specialist, all with USAID

“The Good Samaritan Children’s Home, located in the Mathare slum, the second largest slum in Nairobi, was started in 1991 and currently provides shelter, food, clothing and education to over 220 kids from ages of 9 months to 18 years of age.” “In Kenya, elementary school is ‘free’, but the children are not allowed in the classroom without a uniform.” The founder of the shelter, Mercy Waithera, does fundraising, but does not have consistent sources of funding for food and for school uniforms and supplies.” Some of the children passing from elementary to middle school have scored within the top 20% of Kenya’s school children and will receive partial scholarships.”

Embassy volunteers have been helping with fundraising and used clothing collections for the last 5 years. Funds from the Trust will help these older students with the costs of uniforms, books and school supplies.

LAOS – VIENTIANE – Food security and preventative health care at a school for the blind – a project proposed by Frederick Fuller, Foreign Service Health Practitioner, U. S. Embassy

“The Home of Light, established in 1995, provides food, shelter and basic education, including Braille, to 40 boys and girls who live there. Most are orphans. Their blindness is congenital, vitamin A deficiency and traumatic, including some who have been victims of unexploded ordinances from the Vietnam era. They do not receive regular medical care.”

Funds from the Trust will solve two major problems for the school. “The continuous theft of food and pots and pans from the kitchen will be curtailed by the installation of a security fence and locks on the doors and windows.” The lack of regular medical care will be solved by providing the initial start-up costs for a simple clinic where Health Frontiers, a U. S. based volunteer NGO, will ‘adopt the school’ and send their pediatric residents twice a year to provide vaccinations , deworming medicines and eye exams.”

LATVIA – JELGAVA – Playground equipment at a school for at-risk children – a project proposed by the U. S. Embassy Youth Service Group

“The Center for Social Care in Jelgava, Latvia, a school for at risk children, was started in 1993 in cooperation with the Canadian, U. S. and British Embassies.”

“The U. S. Embassy Youth Service Group is a group of teenage children of U. S. Embassy personnel started in 2011.” The Youth Group visited the Center for Social Care and noticed that the school’s playground was in a state of disrepair. The Embassy’s Facilities Maintenance Team helped the Youth Group to design a jungle gym for the playground.

Funds from the Trust will pay for the jungle gym and the Youth Group will organize volunteers to help with transporting and assembling the playground equipment.”

LITHUANIA – VILNIUS – A lawn mower and weed trimmer for an orphanage – a project proposed by Krista Fay, Community Liaison Officer and Lt Col Stephen Timmons, Pennsylvania National Guard, Bilateral Affairs Officer

Pabrade Orphanage has 61 children in residence, ages 4 to 20 years. In 2011, soldiers and airmen from the Pennsylvania National Guard and members of the Lithuanian Military visited the orphanage and donated soccer equipment. “Without a lawnmower and trimmer to maintain the playing fields, the donated equipment was not being used

and the children did not have the chance to take part in exercise that is fun and healthful.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase a lawnmower and a trimmer to maintain the fields.

MADAGASCAR – ANTANANARIVO – Construction improvements for a classroom and kitchen at a center for disadvantaged children – a project proposed by Kristen Miller, RSO Office Management Specialist, and David Grist, Community Liaison Officer, U. S. Embassy

“Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world.” “Begging has become a common place occurrence and there are large numbers of children roaming the streets begging for food.” “Founded in 1986, CREON (Centre de Recuperation des Orphelins et Necessiteaux) is a center that provides education and care for neglected children.” “They host 50 children per day, most between the ages of five to twelve years old, providing them with basic education, meals, life skills and love and support.”

“In 2011, the Embassy’s Marine Security Detachment (MSG) collected funds to help rebuild the deteriorating classroom and to add a small kitchen, but funding ran short before the classroom and the kitchen could be completed.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to “complete the construction project and to add improvements that will last for years to come.”

MEXICO – GUADALAJARA – English language educational materials for low-income children – a project proposed by Nick Geisinger, Vice Consul and Alfa Cecena, NIV Clerk

“Many of the street vendors on Guadalajara’s busy streets are children who have left school to help support their families.” “CODEN (Colectivo Pro Derechos de la Niñez or ‘Children’s Rights Collective’), a nonprofit organization working to help these children return to school, provides a place where children can go after school to do homework and form friendships in a safe environment.” CODEN works with the parents as well, and if the children have a good attendance record at school, they qualify for financial support to help with the costs of shoes, books and school uniforms.

Consulate employees volunteer their time to help the children with learning English, which is mandatory for all students in grades 7 through 9. Although “the children and volunteers remain enthusiastic, the lack of basic materials is hindering progress.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase an English language software program, books, flashcards and posters.

MEXICO – MEXICO CITY – Upgrade of the electrical system at a shelter for at-risk children – a project proposed by Matthew L. Osborne, Political Officer, U. S. Embassy and his wife, Kari Osborne, in addition to Lisa Hess, Office Management Specialist, David Hess, Deputy Facilities Manager and Sylvia Rogers, Community Liaison Officer

“Fundación Hogar Dulce Hogar, I.A.P. (Home Sweet Home Foundation) houses around 70 displaced children, providing shelter, nutritious meals, clothing, education, medical attention and recreational activities.” “The building is in dire need of renovation and updating for safety reasons. The current electrical system is archaic and poses a fire hazard to the safety of the children.”

Funds from the Trust covered “the cost of a complete electrical replacement for all portions of the house to provide new wiring and outlets compliant with fire code standards.”

MEXICO – HERMOSILLO – Development of a self-sustainable urban agriculture plot at a shelter for underprivileged children – a project proposed by Adriana Acosta Tavenner, wife of Consul General John Tavenner, Alexandra Becker, wife of Vice Consul Caleb Becker and Kimberly Caza, Community Liaison Coordinator, wife of Regional Security Officer Brian Caza

“Casa Guadalupe Libre is a non-profit home for high risk and underprivileged children ages 6 – 17 years that provides them with shelter, food, accountability in education and personal attention that a child needs for integral development.” “Currently the main problem at Casa Guadalupe Libre is a lack of funds” because they have not received their government funding for six months.

“This project will initially provide a source of food, and eventually will become a source of income.” Vegetables will be grown in hanging pots, protecting the plants from animals. The vegetables they grow will not only feed the children but will also become a source of income. The older children will learn valuable skills and will be able to work for their food and shelter instead of being forced to leave at age 17.

Funds from the Trust will provide start-up costs for the project.

MONGOLIA – ULAANBAATAR – A garden and playground structure for an orphanage – a project proposed by Charlotte O’Connell, wife of Daniel O’Connell, Treasury, OTA, advisor to the Mongolian Minister of Finance

The Notre Dame Orphanage has dusty soil and a lack of water. The grant applicant intends to improve the soil, teach the children how to make compost and then work with them to plant a vegetable garden for food, a flower garden for pleasure, and shrubbery as a wind breaker to mitigate dust. In addition, a climbing structure will be built and a summer play house walled by climbing beans, called a “bean house” will be renovated.

She has enlisted the help of volunteers from the International School and church members to help with the digging and building. Funds from the Trust will provide money for initial soil improvements, building materials, shrubbery and rain water barrels.

NAMBIA – WINDHOEK – Establish a multi-use sports field and purchase sports equipment for a Resource Center used by disadvantaged children – a project proposed by Thomas V. B. Brouns, Economic Officer; Anne Daugherty, wife of Thomas Brouns and Alumni Coordinator and Zoe L. P. Brouns, daughter of Thomas Brouns and Anne Daugherty

“The Namibia Women’s Association Resource Center, established by the Jakob Marengo Secondary School’s principal in 2008, provides an after school educational, sports, gardening, and developmental program for disadvantaged and vulnerable children, ages 4 – 14 that live in Katura.” “Katura is the township in which Windhoek’s black residents were forcibly relocated during the Apartheid era, and its residents continue to grapple with the resulting problems of resource inequality, poverty, and lack of opportunity.”

“The school is located on a hill with rocky soil and grass, and lacks an area that can be used for sports.” “The school’s long range plans include the creation of a multi-use sports field, including bleachers and a changing room that will be made available to other schools in the township.”

Funds from the Trust supported “the leveling of a designated area set aside for sports and the purchase of sports equipment that can be used in instruction.”

NIGERIA – LAGOS – Sewing machines and supplies for a seamstress class for indigent women and teenagers – a project proposed by Dr. Jan Flattum-Riemers, Regional Medical Officer, Olesuen Kuteji, Consulate Nurse at the Medical Unit, Esther Ajayi-Lowo, Medical Unit Administrative Assistant, Kris and Prasanna

Arvind, Foreign Service Officer and spouse, and the Lagos Community Service Club, composed of Consulate FSO's and their spouses along with local Nigerian staff

The Arrows of God Orphanage cares for 250 children of all ages, some who have disabilities, and the So-Said Charity Home assists 200 women and children, many who are mentally ill. A common problem for both of these charities is that the women and older children lack skills necessary to support themselves and their families.

"The Arrows of God Orphanage, the So-Said Charity Home, and the U. S. Consulate, Lagos, will embark on a cooperative program" "to establish seamstress training classes for adults and teenagers,"

Funds from the Trust are being used "to purchase hand-powered sewing machines and a modest supply of sewing supplies to get the classes started."

PHILLIPINES – MANILA – Sewing machines, tables and chairs for displaced and impoverished women – a project proposed by Dustin Bradshaw, Foreign Service Officer, Talahiva Bradshaw, EFM, Information Systems Assistant, Jennifer Foltz, Foreign Service Officer and Joseph Foltz, USAID Foreign Service Officer

"Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api (DAMPA) roughly translated as 'Solidarity of Poor Filipinos' was founded by several women in Manila to improve the lives of the impoverished and battered women of the Philippines. For over 18 years they have improved lives of families through sustainable projects, such as livelihood projects and trainings on domestic violence and women's rights." "DAMPA has trained women on how to use recycled materials to create clothing, pillows, curtains, school uniforms, rugs, bags and other household items for the women to sell on the local market." "DAMPA has procured a vacant building from the government where the women can work, but they only had three sewing machines to share."

Funds from the Trust were used to purchase 10 more sewing machines, 5 long working tables and 20 chairs to increase productivity and the women's incomes.

ROMANIA – BUCHAREST – Sewing machines, equipment and supplies for sensory impaired students – a project proposed by Patti Golden, spouse of Jay Golden, Resident Legal Advisor to the Southeastern Europe Law Enforcement Cooperative

“Light of Europe – Romania is the only charitable organization in Romania dedicated to the integration of sensory impaired children and adults into regular society.” “For seven years, Light of Europe has been at the forefront of developing pre-vocational and entrepreneurial activities for those with sight or hearing impairments, using crafts and creative projects.”

A group of American women associated with the Embassy volunteered to assist Light of Europe-Romania with a summer training program to teach sewing, giving the students the ability to improve their confidence and create their own brand of high quality items to re-sell.

Funds from the Trust, used to purchase sewing machines and supplies, made this project possible. The sewing machines will remain with Light of Europe to be used for ongoing occupational training.

SENEGAL – DAKAR – Medical equipment for a shelter for street children – a project proposed by Levi Smylie, Economic Officer, Melissa Pousette, Ambassador’s OMS, Paul Pousette, General Services Officer and Oumou Dat, Protocol Assistant

“Human Rights Watch estimates that there are over 8,000 children that live and beg on the streets of Dakar, the capital city of Senegal.” “Many of these children have fled from Koranic schools, where they are forced to memorize the Koran and beg for money on the street and are severely beaten if they do not meet their quotas.”

Samusocial is a shelter for these children where they receive food, shelter, medical care, counseling and services to reunite them with their families. Samusocial has an ambulance staffed by a doctor, a social worker and a driver/ facilitator, which drives around Dakar day and night looking for street children who need help, including urgent medical care. Because child protection services in Senegal are inadequate and underfunded, medical equipment and supplies for the ambulance and the shelter are desperately needed.

Funds from the Trust are being used to purchase the necessary medical equipment and supplies.

SIERRA LEONE – FREETOWN – Clothing stock and storage container for homeless children – a project proposed by Karen Daniels, Administrative Assistant to the Regional Security Office

“Sierra Leone remains one of the 5 poorest nations on the globe with over 70% of its citizens living on less than \$1 per day, a life expectancy of 48 years old and where 40% of citizens over age 15 are illiterate. Parents are often unable to care for children and the result is a large population of homeless children.”

“The Saint George Foundation in Freeport, Sierra Leone leads numerous programs to help orphans and street children.” “Initially formed in 2004 as a food program for homeless children, the program has grown to become a comprehensive one which provides housing, education and medical care” Children come to the program with only the clothes on their backs, so clothing is one of the Foundation’s largest challenges.

Funds from the Trust will be used to establish a basic clothing stock in the appropriate sizes for the children and a storage container to keep the clothing until it is needed.

SLOVENIA – GROSUPLJE – Relationship-building workshops for Roma women – a project proposed by Margaret Carlin, Community Liaison Officer, Kristen Fresonke, Political-Economic Officer and Scott Johnson, Olmsted Scholar, U. S. Air Force

“In spite of recent steps taken by the Slovenian government towards improving the situation of the Slovene Roma population, many Roma communities still experience discrimination, de facto educational segregation, isolation, and inadequate housing conditions such as lack of access to water, sanitation services, electricity and security of tenure.” “Slovene women are even further isolated due to lack of education, high pregnancy rates,” discrimination based on gender and high rates of domestic violence.

The grant applicants, in cooperation with several Slovene Roma advocacy groups are using funds from the Trust to provide workshops for women with the goals of providing an opportunity for the women to connect with each other, encourage the development of supporting relationships for women experiencing domestic violence, provide information on violence prevention, assertive behavior, contraception, pregnancy and parenting.

SOUTH AFRICA – NEW EERSTERUS, GAUTENG PROVINCE – Water pump for an orphan day care center – a project proposed by Heidi O’Bra, Public Health Analyst, U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The Karabo Asara (translated as “Hope is the Answer”) Orphan Centre is a day center for orphans whose lives are affected by HIV. “The children receive two meals per day, school tutoring and a recreational environment with adult supervision.”

“The HIV infection rate in this community is estimated to be 20 – 25% with very little social and health resources for HIV prevention, care and treatment.” Opened in 2011 after the grant applicant raised 10,000 USD from private donations for the purchase of land and a small building, Karabo Asara serves as a day center for orphans and is also a venue for an HIV support group.

Funds from the Trust were used to purchase a water pump so that the center could have access to clean water.

SOUTH AFRICA – PRETORIA – Formal “prom” gowns for disadvantaged teenaged girls – a project proposed by Bethany “Kiana” Lawson, 14 year old daughter of L. Dale Lawton, Foreign Service Officer

“In South Africa under Apartheid, the term *township* came to mean a residential development that confined non-whites living near white-only communities.” “Today, the townships still predominantly house black South Africans”, “have high unemployment and many families who live in poverty.”

“Every fall the high schools have “Matric Balls” which are a rite of passage equivalent to Proms in the United States.” “Using precious funds to spend on a formal gown can take months of a family’s income, yet this is one of the few opportunities the girls have to dress up and feel special.”

The grant applicant has been buying used prom dresses through friends and relatives in the United States and recruiting volunteers to mend and clean the gowns. Funds from the Trust allowed her to purchase additional gowns, allowing her to expand the project and help more girls.

SWAZILAND – MAGUBHELENI – A library for a mission school – a project proposed by Craig L. Cloud, Deputy Chief of Mission, U. S. Embassy

“The Magubheleni Primary School is a mission school established in 1967 by the Alliance Church in Swaziland. The school’s mission is to provide quality education and moral values in a welcoming environment in order to produce great students and citizens.” The school currently has no library, which limits the students’ access to literature and affects their performance on national exams.

Many of the children in this school are orphans and vulnerable children, victims of poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The parents in the community have raised funds

for some of the building materials for a library where they will put the books currently stored in boxes in a storage room.

Funds from the Trust will provide additional building materials, wiring for electricity, paint and construction of shelving.

SWAZILAND – MBABANE – Scholarships and educational supplies for high school girls – a project proposed by Callista Chen, spouse of Peter Ehrenkranz, Medical Officer, PEPFAR/US Centers for Disease Control

“Public education in Swaziland is only free for grades 1-4” “Many Swazi families cannot afford school fees, and even if they can, many prioritize sons over daughters.”

“Because Swaziland has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world, an estimated one third of Swazi children are orphans or otherwise vulnerable.”

“Boost is a small NGO which provides small financial grants, usually for tuition or school supplies.” Unfortunately Boost ran short of money and several promising students could not be funded. This project aimed to provide more scholarships for girls with the goal of keeping them in school to “reduce teenage pregnancy, reduce fertility rates and improve their future.”

Funds from the Trust will allow several motivated girls to stay in school to continue their education.

THAILAND – CHIANG MAI – Renovations for an orphanage – a project proposed by Travis Chan, Administrative Support Assistant, U. S. Embassy

The Khaodee Children’s Home houses 100 children and 8 staff members and had only one water storage tank which was often depleted, leaving the children with no access to water. In addition, the only functioning sinks were located in the same location as the toilets, so children had to wait until the toilets were not being used in order to take care of daily hygiene needs. The clothes lines were also inadequate, often resulting in clean clothes falling in the mud below.

Funds from the Trust provided an additional water tank with a better filter, materials to build hygiene stations, improvements to the area where the children’s clothes are dried, and new trash bins and brooms for improved sanitation.

THAILAND – CHIANG MAI – Life skills education for children living in an orphanage – a project proposed by Jennifer Wise, spouse of Special Agent William Wise, Drug Enforcement Administration

Fifty-five orphaned or abandoned hill tribe children live at *Hope House Children's Home* and attend school on the premises at the *Hope and a Future School*. "The hill tribe people are considered 'non-people' by the Thai government and have little access to adequate shelter, food, education and employment opportunities." The children often lack basic life skills such as laundering, cleaning, personal hygiene, cooking, sewing, or riding public transportation.

Funds from the Trust are being used to provide experiential learning tools such as computers, musical instruments, science equipment, a sewing machine and an oven for home making skills, and field trips involving public transportation to museums, zoos, the marketplace, and businesses such as hair salons, gas stations, and retail stores.

TUNISIA – TUNIS – Renovation of a park in a disadvantaged neighborhood – a project proposed by Meghan Bradley, Human Rights Officer, Political-Economic Section, U. S. Embassy

"After 23 years of dictatorship, Tunisians are now enjoying the ability to determine their own path and make decisions about their communities, rather than having the government do so on their behalf. Community groups can now organize to do their work without impediment by the government. In partnership with a local youth activist NGO, Thaddi ('Challenge' in Arabic), the grant applicants organized a citizen-led day to rehabilitate a park in a disadvantaged neighborhood" At risk youth volunteers "picked up trash, painted walls, repaired walking paths with crushed stone, and installed two new pieces of playground equipment, park benches and trash cans."

Funds from the Trust made the project possible by paying for materials and playground equipment.

UKRAINE – KYIV – Equipment for an orphanage – a project proposed by Leah Evans, spouse of Arthur Evans, Public Affairs Office, Leigh Morris, spouse of Greg Morris, Information Management Specialist and Enri Fort, spouse of John Fort, Information Management Specialist

"Otchy Dim (Father's House) is a charitable, non-profit, non-governmental and non-political orphanage which is home to sixty children between the ages of 2 and 19, most who were taken from the streets in Ukraine." The orphanage "provides food, clothing,

shelter, education, medical care and psychological rehabilitation to maximize the potential of adoption.” “Although they have made substantial improvements through donations of time and money, there are still many needs that are essential to the health and safety of the children.”

Funds from the Trust provided funding for a fire alarm system, a refrigerator and clothes dryer.

VENEZUELA – CARACAS – Appliances for an orphanage – a project proposed by Maureen McNicholl, Vice Consul, U. S. Embassy

“Established in 1991, the non-sectarian private FUNDANA orphanage (called, ‘Las Villas de Los Chiquiticos’ or Homes of the Little Ones) provides refuge to 110 children aged 0 - 6 who have been the innocent victims of abuse, abandonment or neglect by adult family members.” Although Venezuela is an oil rich country, there is very high inflation and often shortages of milk, sugar and even diapers. Government funding favors organizations that do not accept help from international sources.

Helping Hands is a small group of volunteers from the U. S. Embassy that promotes involvement in local charitable activities, focusing on projects and organizations that work with at-risk groups of children, women and the elderly, and FUNDANA is their main charity. Upon request of Helping Hands, FUNDANA provided a list of their most needed items.

Funds from the Trust are paying for these items such as ceiling fans, juicers, and pots and pans sets.

YEMEN – SANA’A – Equipment for an orphanage – a project proposed by Janice Forman, Office Management Specialist/Assistant to the Ambassador and Carolyn Ratzlaff, Assistant General Services Officer, U. S. Embassy

Al-Rahma Foundation and Orphanage is a residential facility providing a home to 320 abused, abandoned or orphaned children. They rely on donations and income from sales of their handy-craft items to provide for all the needs of the children, including an on-site school. They received a donation of 20 used computers, but had no desks or chairs for a computer classroom.

Funds from the Trust will be used to help purchase student desks and chairs for their computer classroom, English language software and books, and playground equipment.