

## **J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust GRANTS AWARDED IN 2013**

*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 2012, the Trust once again invited proposals for the support, in 2013, 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 78 proposals from 46 countries. With its modest resources, the Trust was able to provide funding for 47 of these projects representing 32 countries. Grants ranged from \$400 to \$4,475 for a total of \$81,629.

The following pages describe the projects supported by the Trust in 2013. (Material in quotation marks is taken from the proposals describing the projects.)

**ARMENIA - ABOVYAN VILLAGE - Renovations for a home for elderly and disabled - a project proposed by Sarah Isaacson, Assistant GSO and Jane Burt-Lynn, spouse of George Lynn, Consular Chief.**

“The U. S. Embassy Yerevan has established a service organization called ‘Helping Hands’,” whose “mission is to bring together Armenian and American volunteers from the Embassy community to perform service projects with vulnerable communities in Armenia.”

“Narek is an elderly and disabled home opened in 1993 in an abandoned city hospital building by a man named Fredon Mickaelyan and his wife, Shoghik, using their own pension salaries of less than \$100 USD per month. They currently serve 36 patients, and they keep a produce garden and a cow, some chickens and a bee hive, selling the excess food to raise money to cover the costs of running the home.”

Funds from the Trust will enable Helping Hands to “improve the building structurally, remodel the cafeteria/dining room, improve laundry facilities, provide an outdoor

recreation area, and to create a ‘grandparent’ program between the residents and local village children.”

**BANGLADESH - DHAKA - A house for a poor family - a project proposed by Magdalena Dimitrowa, Community Liaison Officer, and Christine Nixon and Kate Huly, Community Liaison Office Assistants.**

In Bangladesh “there are 160 million people squeezed into a space the size of Wisconsin. That is roughly 1000 people per square kilometer. The country experiences yearly floods and cyclones that destroy entire villages and many of the ultra-poor cannot afford to rebuild their homes, much less ensure the structures are adequate, safe, environmentally friendly, and hygienic.”

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the CLO team will use funds from the Trust to obtain building materials and will volunteer their time to build a house, “including a structurally sound room, a hygienic latrine, and a veranda” for one ultra-poor family.

**BANGLADESH - DHAKA - Equipment for fundraising events for the Dhaka FSN Community - a project proposed by Mikkela Thompson, Management Officer; Jasmine Ara, Supervisory Visa Specialist; and the Foreign Service Nationals Committee.**

“Dhaka is ranked as the least livable city in the world by the Economist because of endemic corruption, extreme poverty, high crime rates, gridlocked traffic, and unreliable utilities. With the dismal infrastructure in Dhaka and the dangers on the street, tragedies that befall the FSN community are numerous and horrific.”

“Because of these numerous tragedies, the FSN fund, administered by the FSN Committee, is drained of funds.” “Once a year, the FSNs organize a mission carnival, Mission Appreciation Day, a festival and a fundraising opportunity.”

Funds from the Trust will be used toward the purchase “of money making items, such as a popcorn machine, a cotton candy machine, a coffee/tea vending machine, and a DSLR camera that will allow for the production of items that can be sold as fundraisers: post cards, t-shirts, calendars, and any other item that can have printed images applied to them”; the FSN community can “lend the equipment to raise funds for other charities.”

**BELIZE - SAN ROMAN - Construction of a library - a project proposed by Deborah Mahoney, Office Manager, and Joseph Boski, Political/Economic Section Chief.**

“The village of San Roman does not have a library, not even at the local school.”  
“Local resident, Yesenia Novelo Tush has a table in her small store with about 100 donated books that serves as a not-for-profit library.” “More books have been donated by the Embassy community and they will no longer fit on the small table. Mrs. Tush and her husband, Orticio Tush, will construct a room attached to her store to house the books,” and Mrs. Tush will seek volunteers from the community to operate the library.

Funds from the Trust will “assist with completing the construction of the building and furnishing the room to make it a proper library.”

**CAMEROON - YAOUNDE - Equipment for swimming lessons- a project proposed by Alberto Arriaga, Facilities Maintenance Assistant and spouse of Human Resources Officer Amanda Arriaga.**

The applicant is offering free swimming lessons to the Embassy’s Locally Employed Staff. “The purpose of the beginner program is to introduce people to swimming safety, drowning prevention and a way to go from couch potato to 500 meters in two months. The intermediate and advanced programs are intended for people who already know how to swim but lack a proper place to practice and need help with technique, speed or endurance improvement.”

Funds from the Trust are paying for kick boards, goggles and ring buoys to be used for the swimmers, and the Embassy pool will be made available for the lessons.

**CANADA - HALIFAX, NS - Books for a reading program for disadvantaged children - a project proposed by Cheryl Wong, General Services Specialist and spouse of Richard Riley, Consul General.**

“The Rotary Club of Halifax has partnered with the Central Spryfield School in Halifax since 2005 to develop and operate a Grade 1 literacy project named ‘The Rotary Reading Program for Early Intervention’” because, “for various social and economic reasons, the majority of the school population was not reading at grade level or progressing properly through the school system.” “The Rotary Club has funded materials for very early readers, but is not able to provide financial support for early

chapter books for use by the children ready to move on to the next step in their literacy progress.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase early chapter books, “adding new resources to the program,” which are greatly needed “to see continued progress.”

**CHINA - BEIJING - Computer lab equipment for two schools for children of migrant workers - a project proposed by Meredith Champlin, Vice Consul; William Wachter, Second Secretary; and Victoria Wu, Vice Consul.**

“The Chinese educational system puts children of migrant workers at a strong disadvantage relative to their urban counterparts.” “The U. S. Embassy group FAST (First and Second Tour Corps) has partnered with BEAM Alliance, a non-governmental organization whose mission is to help underprivileged Chinese students,” and they “conducted a needs assessment at the local migrant school to determine the best application of their outreach efforts.” It was determined that “lack of access to basic technology was limiting the learning opportunities for the students.”

The Trust will fund multimedia labs at two schools, including computers, desks and chairs. “FAST will raise additional money for more computers and will organize a drive for Embassy personnel to donate their old personal desktop computers.”

**CHINA - SHENYANG -Therapeutic horse riding for children with disabilities - a project proposed by Charlotte Brock, Community Liaison Office Coordinator, spouse of David Brock, Consular Officer.**

“LIGHT (Liaoning International General Health Trainers) is a non-profit organization based in Shenyang, China, which, in addition to staffing the Global Doctors clinic where Consulate families receive medical care, sponsors medical and non-medical programs to serve orphans, the elderly in state nursing homes, and those in remote areas without access to adequate medical care.”

Children whose disabilities are too severe to be cared for in a large orphanage are placed in foster care. “Consulate staff has become increasingly aware of the challenges that face these children,” and the offer by Mr. Han Guang , owner of the Shenyang Horse Club, to allow the use of his horses free of charge, was “greeted enthusiastically for the many benefits such a program provides for the children.”

Funds from the Trust are being used to purchase equipment required for safety of the children and to pay for transportation to the location where the riding will occur.

**EAST TIMOR - DILI - Expansion of a yoghurt-making business for impoverished women - a project proposed by Dr. Sandra E. Wang - Harris and spouse Kevin J. Harris, General Services Officer.**

“Timor Leste (East Timor) is the newest nation in the South Pacific. It is a post-conflict nation with a generation of people left indigent with limited skills after 35 years of occupation by Indonesia. The grant applicants used their own funds to work with several motivated women to start a home-based business making natural, preservative-free yoghurt and healthy salads,” which are being sold in supermarkets.

Funds from the Trust are providing equipment and supplies needed to expand the business, “which will empower more women to join the organization.”

**ECUADOR - QUITO - Supplies for a veterinary clinic - a project proposed by Lourdes Farley, spouse of a Defense Attaché.**

“The Gora (Grupo Rescate Operativo Animal) Foundation is one of the largest and most active animal rescue organizations in Quito, addressing the problem of nearly 300,000 dogs living on the streets of Quito.” “As a way to generate funding for the organization, they plan to open a veterinary clinic that will treat and sterilize their shelter animals and street animals, but will also treat privately owned animals for a fee.”

Funds from the Trust will help to furnish the clinic.

**ECUADOR - GUAYAQUIL - Computers and educational materials for poor children - a project proposed by Sharon Liburd, Vice Consul.**

The AFROAMERICA XXI Foundation was founded in 2002 to address “the basic socio-economic needs of Afro-Ecuadorian community.” Due to “overt and hidden racism,” Afro-Ecuadorian people lack opportunities, and this “foundation aims to facilitate a path to success through access to quality education, information on public health issues, preparation for the workforce and principles of community organization, self-determination, and respect.” In the Batalla de Tarqui community, “approximately 40 boys and girls, ranging from ages 4 - 17, participate in Saturday training programs” offered by AFROAMERICA XXI.

Funds from the Trust will “purchase additional learning materials, such as English and math books and computers, to provide essential skills that will enable the youth to compete better on the local labor market.”

**EGYPT - CAIRO - Hydroponics and aquaponics systems for growing vegetables for refugees - a project proposed by Lisa Franchett, Director , Office of Education and Training, USAID/Egypt, Anne Holt, spouse of Tyler Holt, USAID/Egypt, Office of Middle East Programs, and Lisa Cook, American science teacher at Cairo American College.**

“Hydroponics is a system for growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions in water without soil, allowing vegetables to be grown in wooden boxes covered with durable plastic. Aquaponics involves raising vegetables and fish together in a closed loop system.” These systems are both “good choices in arid regions like Egypt” because they “allow the continuous recycling of water” and “can be installed on roof tops”.

“The objective of the project is to generate income for poor refugees and Egyptians” “by providing them with the opportunity to own roof top farms that produce healthy and sustainable crops.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to “install the systems on the roof of the Cairo American College campus.” “Proceeds from produce grown will be used to provide training and micro-loans to needy families in order to purchase their own hydroponic and aquaponic systems.”

**GEORGIA - TBILISI - A playground for children of refugees - a project proposed by Mikiko Fischel, spouse of Joshua Fischel, Regional Refugee Coordinator, U. S. Embassy Tbilisi.**

“In 2012, 600 persons applied for asylum in Georgia, an enormous increase over previous years,” due to “the conflict in Syria and Georgia’s liberal visa regime.” “There is only one facility to accommodate asylum seekers, which has a capacity of 60 residents,” who “rotate through the facility on a regular basis.”

The goal of this project is to provide a playground for the children of these asylum seekers, to “provide a sense of security and a distraction from the traumatic experiences” from which they “suffer psychologically.”

Funds from the Trust will help to provide a swing set, teeter-totter and slides, and sand to cover the play area. “The labor costs will be covered by the Georgian Ministry of Refugees and Accommodations.”

**GREECE - ATHENS - A mural and painting project for handicapped children - a project proposed by Douglas K. Ellrich, Supervisory General Services Officer, and Eleni Alexaki, Cultural Affairs Specialist.**

Embassy Athens Community Service Network (CSN), a voluntary group which undertakes numerous charitable activities, and handicapped children of Cerebral Palsy Greece/Open Door (CPG/OD), a day care center for 250 children with cerebral palsy, are working together under the supervision of a Greek-American artist not only to paint the inside of the building, but also to create “a mural reflective of the children’s needs and experiences.”

Funds from the Trust will provide paint, tools and materials, an artist fee and miscellaneous labor.

**HAITI - PORT-AU-PRINCE - School uniforms for orphans - a project proposed by Deborah Schmid, mother of Stephanie Schmid, Political Officer.**

“Sens Universal Orphanage has a school on the premises for approximately 200 neighborhood children. Orphans attend school in whatever clothing is available to them, while the neighborhood children attend school wearing the school uniform.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to have school uniforms made for the orphans, “greatly increasing their self-esteem.”

**HAITI - PORT-AU-PRINCE - Recreational space and mattresses for an orphanage - a project proposed by Lynn D. Goodman, Foreign Service Office Management Specialist, and Michelle Newman, Defense Attaché Office, U. S. Embassy Port-au-Prince.**

“Sant Mete Men Pou Defann Dwa Timoun, or SMDT, which in English translates to *Hands Together to Defend the Children’s Right*, is a small, family-run orphanage located in the Clercine 8 District of Port-au-Prince.” “Prior to the devastating earthquake in 2010, SMDT Orphanage was a fully operational home orphanage with 40 children.” “Due to the tragedy, the orphanage lost its home and funding” and has

relocated twice since 2010.” “There are presently 27 children ages from one to fourteen years old.”

Funds from the Trust “will be utilized to purchase a wooden swing set and artificial grass for outside flooring” to “create a safe and secure playground area for the children,” and also to provide 30 twin size mattresses “to improve hygiene and living conditions.”

**HONDURAS- TEGUCIGALPA - Improvements to animal cages at a zoo - a project proposed by Dan Trif, General Services Officer and Greening Initiatives Committee Chair.**

“Honduras is a country beset by many problems, including an impoverished government, a poor economy, a poorly educated and underemployed populace, and security problems exacerbated by rampant crime, gang-related activity, drug trafficking and a disenfranchised police force.”

“The Rosy Walter Zoo, which is actually a refuge for rescued animals, is one of the few locations in the city considered relatively safe for outdoor activities.” “The zoo receives few financial resources” and “is in extremely poor condition.”

Funds from the Trust will help to “improve the physical facilities of the zoo, focused on improving the animals’ cages.”

**INDIA - ANDHRA PRADESH - Sustainable toilet facility for a village - a project proposed by Travis Coberly, Political and Economic Affairs Officer, U. S. Consulate General, Hyderabad, India**

“According to a 2012 UNICEF report, less than half of Indians have access to adequate toilet facilities”, “forcing the practice of open defecation.” “While the lack of access to adequate sanitation facilities and the associated health effects create significant social and economic consequences, it is the deprivation of human dignity which is the most tragic aspect of the issue.”

Modeled after the facility built in another village, where an “innovative, eco-friendly and waterless toilet facility based around the ECOSAN system” was constructed, this project will not only have an “immediate impact on the economic, physical and mental well-being of an entire village”, but the ECOSAN system, utilizing “a three step diversion feature to separate, treat, and recycle human waste”, will also provide the recycled waste to be used as fertilizer.

Funds from the Trust are being used to purchase the required materials and supplies.

**INDONESIA - JAKARTA - Improvements to health education materials for an organization focused on reducing early childhood malnutrition - a project proposed by Zoey Breslar, spouse of Zeric Smith, Deputy Director of USAID/Indonesia's Democracy and Governance Office.**

“Malnutrition contributes to half the deaths of Indonesian children before they reach age five (UNICEF, 2012), and for those who survive, malnutrition can impair brain development and affect learning capacity, weaken a child’s immunity and increase the risk of diabetes, obesity, heart disease and strokes.”

“Yayasan Balita Sehat (YBS) was established in 2001 as the Indonesian branch of Foundation for Mother and Child Health to tackle the causes of malnutrition and under-nutrition among Indonesian children below the age of five.” “YBS is reviewing its health education materials to ensure they integrate the most current information and research about early childhood nutrition.”

Funds from the Trust will assist with “the costs of developing these revised materials and for training community health workers to work with communities.”

**INDONESIA - JAKARTA - Specialized equipment and therapeutic tools for orphans with disabilities - a project proposed by Paula Blaker, Physical Therapist and spouse of Regional Medical Officer Scott Blaker; Emily Blaker, Junior at the Jakarta International School and daughter of Scott Blaker; Eka Yosida, Foreign Service National, USAID Office Manager/Administrative Assistant; Fransisca Stella Sekarpuri, Foreign Service National, Consular Administrative Assistant; and Siti Sarah Nurkalam (Moja), Foreign Service National, Administrative Assistant.**

“The Bhakti Luhur Home and School was founded in 1959 by Father Janseen, who took abandoned, poor and disabled children off the streets during his missionary work in Indonesia.” The home “currently serves 200 orphans with disabilities,” some who are bed-ridden or who have serious mobility limitations. “The caregivers lack training and the proper equipment for safe mobility techniques, risking injuries to themselves and the children.”

The grant applicant, a trained physical therapist, will work with volunteers to “provide training in safe bed mobility, transfer, lifting and feeding techniques, positioning for comfort, prevention of bed sores.”

Funds from the Trust will pay for equipment such as transfer boards, a reclining, rolling shower chair, oral motor control stimulators and head / neck adjustable support brace for feeding, and educational and therapeutic toys.

**IRAQ - BAGHDAD- School supplies for orphans - a project proposed by Barbara Bootes (FSO), The Anti-Corruption Coordinator, and Noha Al-Agha, Locally Engaged Cultural Adviser, International Narcotics & Law Enforcement-Anti-Corruption Coordination Office.**

“The 2003 Iraq War brought deadly explosions and terrible events that resulted in three million orphans and four million widows with children homeless on the streets of Baghdad. Initially a French organization found a place to open a large orphanage but had to abandon it in 2004 after foreigners in Iraq were being targeted for kidnapping and assassination.” “The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs took over the job of running the old French orphanage,” and it “eventually became the Bait Al-Toufil, or ‘House of the Child’ Orphanage.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to provide school supplies and furnishings to enhance the quality of the learning environment for approximately 60 boys currently living at the orphanage.

**IRAQ - BADHDAD - Expansion of a sewing training center for women - a project proposed by Laurie Meininger, Foreign Service Officer, Justice Sector Program Officer, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau , U. S. Embassy Baghdad, and Husham Mohammed Abdullah, Locally Engaged Staff.**

“In Iraq, women’s handiwork traditions have proven to be one of the best and least-threatening avenues for bringing women together to help build their income generation capacity while creating a strong social fabric of self-help support.”

“The Al-Zahraa Al-Um Cultural and Charity Foundation, a social service NGO in existence since 2003, provides programs for some of the most underserved and marginalized of Baghdad, orphans and widows,” and the sewing program is an integral part of the Foundation’s service.

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase additional sewing machines, workshop tables and a small generator, expanding the capacity of the program and increasing the enrollment of women and girls.

**KENYA - NAIROBI - Playground, educational, music and art equipment for an orphanage - a project proposed by Christine Lusk, spouse of U. S. State Department employee Benton Shane Lusk.**

The '*Chesa Watoto*' (Children Play) project is based in the Hope House Babies Home, an orphanage which cares for 23 abandoned babies from birth to age 3. The home receives no Government funding and "relies totally on the kindness and generosity of people from Kenya and overseas to provide the necessary funds needed to care for the babies." "The babies currently have few places to play outside and have a total lack of development and educational toys."

Funds from the Trust will be used to "purchase basic playground equipment, books, musical instruments and basic developmental toys such as building blocks and other tactile toys." The project will also "engage Embassy members in volunteering for 'play dates' and donating wood for the playground equipment and gently used toys and books."

**LAOS - SARAVAN PROVINCE - Birth Kits and outreach on Safe Births - a project proposed by Dee Harlow, spouse of Graham Harlow, General Services Officer.**

"A recent World Bank report on maternal health in Laos reported that 470 per 100,000 women die from pregnancy related complications as compared to 11 per 100,000 in the U. S." "This high maternal mortality rate is reflected in the fact that 80% of the population gives birth at home and only 20% gives birth with skilled birth attendants."

"To help reduce the problem of high maternal and infant mortality rates, the World Health Organization and the United Nations have long advocated for promoting clean birth practices, which include the training of midwives in rural areas as well as distributing clean birth kits," such a kit is "already used in several countries and its effectiveness has been documented by many sources."

Funds from the Trust will help pay for Clean Birth Kits containing sterile, hospital grade supplies and for nurses training on how to conduct "Safe Birth Outreach."

**LITHUANIA - VILNIUS - Kitchen items for a charitable canteen - a project proposed by Ana-Maria Comsa and Heather Boyers, Community Liaison Office Coordinators.**

The Ekklesia Charity Foundation, founded in 1997, operates two charitable canteens to "help those who suffer," serving approximately 160,000 meals each year." "The homeless people, children and retired persons who come to the soup kitchen not only

have a hot meal, but can also take a bath, do laundry and occasionally get shelter.”  
“The ‘staff’ is made up of volunteers who plan and supervise the activities and services and by needy people who work for four hours in exchange for meals for themselves and their families.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase “heavy duty commercial style pots and containers, enormously improving the Foundation’s kitchen services and food preparation.”

**MEXICO - HERMOSILLO -- Supplies and equipment for a breast cancer prevention group - a project proposed by Donald Emerick, Management Chief; Greg Staff and Ian Crawford, Vice Consuls, U. S. Consulate General.**

This project will “assist Grupo Reto, an established NGO based in the Consular District, in its ongoing programs to 1) teach at-risk populations how to avoid breast cancer and 2) support and treat people living with breast cancer” by providing printed outreach materials, multi-media presentation technology and prosthetics for breast cancer survivors; assisting in the deployment of the supplies; and advertising the program through social media.

Funds from the Trust will help to pay for the multi-media equipment and the prosthetics.

**MEXICO - MAZATLAN - Equipment for an hospice organization - a project proposed by Heather Kasemeier, Special Consular Services Specialist, U. S. Consular Agency Mazatlan/U. S. Consulate General Hermosillo.**

After Hospice Mazatlan IAP was officially started as an NPO in 2008, it became “one of only two fully established hospices that exist in all of Mexico.” It began with “8 patients the first year and has doubled that number every year, bringing the total in 2012 to 118 patients.” “The organization relies on community donations, fundraising events and grants to ensure that care is available to all in need,” and has “had to work very hard within the community to bring about awareness, as palliative care is a very new idea for the Mexican culture to understand.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to add 2 hospital beds, an oxygen concentrator and a digital oxygen gauge, going “a long way in making a positive impact in the lives of Hospice patients and their loved ones during such an emotional and ultimately inevitable phase of life.”

**MEXICO - NOGALES - Ceiling for an orphanage - a project proposed by Kate Rettenmayer, CLO Coordinator, wife of Nathaniel Rettenmayer, Consular Officer.**

“Casa Vida Nueva (New Life House), the newest orphanage in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico,” is located in a remote area that is very difficult to reach, “even by large armored SUVs”. The area has been plagued by violence from drug cartel activity, resulting in the exodus of much of the middle class, many who would have been donors to charitable organizations like the orphanage.

There are currently 17 children at the orphanage, but it has capacity for 100 children. Due to cost overruns and a lack of funding from the local, state or federal governments, the ceiling throughout the entire structure was not finished, “resulting in a major loss of heat during the frigid winter.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to “complete the ceiling so the orphanage can start working to bring in more needy orphans.”

**MEXICO - NUEVO LAREDO - A mobile skateboard park for at-risk youth - a project proposed by Adrienne Bory, Vice Consul; Jonathan P. Herzog, Vice Consul; John Runkle, Vice Consul; and Vicki Ting, Vice Consul, U. S. Consulate General, Nuevo Laredo.**

“Located along the U. S. - Mexico border, Nuevo Laredo has been ground zero for a protracted and bloody struggle between two rival drug cartels since 2010.”

The grant applicants “wish to develop a mobile skateboard park that will travel through impoverished neighborhoods in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, offering a supportive environment and anti-violence message to youth at risk of recruitment into narcotics-trafficking gangs.” Working with “Amorfo Colectivo,” a small charity “with the expressed purpose of reaching at-risk youth through ‘urban expressions’ workshops, organizers hope to create the city’s first competitive skateboard team.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to purchase the equipment for a complete, portable skateboard park.

**MEXICO - TIJUANA - Shelves and a security system for an orphanage - a project proposed by Victor M Garcia-Rivera and Sharyn Fitzgerald, Vice Consuls, Tijuana.**

“Eunime Por Tijuana, A. C., is an orphanage for children who are either infected with HIV or AIDS, or who have a parent or sibling who has been infected with the disease.” Because only 2% of the funding for this orphanage comes from the Government of Mexico, and because of the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS, “the orphanage struggles to raise funds to cover the cost of caring for the kids.”

To alleviate the lack of storage for the children’s clothing, and to alleviate a rash of thefts and a lack of night time security, the grant applicants seek funding for closet systems and for security cameras for the orphanage.

Funds from the Trust will help to pay for this project.

**MOLDOVA - CHISINAU - A needlework training program for a women’s shelter - a project proposed by Margaret L. Welch, finger printer at the consular office, whose spouse is a Foreign Service Specialist at the Embassy in Chisinau.**

“Moldova has a chronic abuse of women problem; a recent survey of women aged 15 - 64 found that 64% of them had experienced violence at some point in their lives.” Casa Marioarei is a shelter for abused women but “most of the women who cycle through the shelter have no skills and end up returning to their abusive husbands.”

The grant applicant will teach “needlework techniques usable in the fashion, textile and crafts industries,” and the “items they make will be sold to further support the women’s shelter.”

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

**MOLDOVA - GRATIESTI - Repairs and English teaching aids for a center for handicapped children - a project proposed by LT Col Sergio A. Porres, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation; Alejandra Porres, Co-Community Liaison Officer; and Natalia Modval, Office Manager of the Bilateral Affairs Office, at the Embassy in Chisinau.**

“Steaua Calauza” is a community center that “serves children with disabilities, their siblings and children from socially vulnerable families (disabled parents, parents working abroad, unemployed parents).” The center, located in an old school building, receives no government funding and is in great “need of refurbishment to make it functional and safe for the children.” The wooden floor in the play area is “unstable and uninsulated, and the windows are broken, allowing outside air to enter and heat to escape.”

“This is the only facility in the village where disabled children can meet and spend some time playing and get involved in activities led by volunteers, such as English classes.”

Funds from the Trust will pay to get the floor and windows replaced and will provide English materials for use by a volunteer teacher.

**NAMIBIA - KUTENHOAS - School supplies for an orphanage - a project proposed by Alice d’Aboville, daughter of Karen d’Aboville, Regional Legal Advisor with USAID, and Alain d’Aboville, Foreign Service.**

The grant applicant attends ACS Cobham International School, a boarding school in Surrey, England, while her parents are working in Foreign Service. Currently in its 14th year, the school’s Namibia Project -- the main objective to of which is “to enable students, teachers, support workers and the ACS community to participate in reciprocal and lasting partnerships with our schools in Namibia to improve their understanding of global interdependence” -- has raised money and sent ACS students to Namibia for two weeks “to help the school and the community.”

“The Kutenhoas Primary School has around 110 pupils, ages 3 - 12 years old, 51 of whom are orphans who live at the school” and many whose lives are affected by HIV/Aids. “This year the school has asked for basic school supplies; clothing, shoes and blankets; funds to set up an HIV/Aids Awareness Club; and materials for the Garden Project.”

The ACS students raised over \$5,000 toward these needs, and funds from the Trust will contribute further toward this project.

**NIGER - NIAMEY - Tuition and sanitary supplies for an orphanage - a project proposed by Julie Huxsoll, Community Liaison Officer, U. S. Embassy.**

“REMAR International is a group based in Spain which supports orphanages and other needs-based services throughout the world. In Niamey, the capital of Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world, the REMAR orphanage is growing way beyond its means, but not outgrowing its giving heart.” “Some local orphanages and even public schools will not take children without a background that can be verified,” but REMAR takes in all children without a home.” These undocumented children must attend a private school that will accept them - and have to pay tuition.

Another issue is that the water supply is not safe for drinking, so water distillers must be used. In addition, all vegetables must be rinsed in bleach and distilled water before they are safe to eat, creating further need for more distilled water.

Funds from the Trust will contribute toward tuition expense and for additional water distillers.

**PARAGUAY - ASUNCION - Playground equipment for a school for disabled children - a project proposed by Melody Istrati, wife of Christopher Istrati, Public Affairs Officer.**

“DENIDE (Derechos del Nino en Desarrollo) is a non-profit organization in Paraguay that has set up a school for children with developmental delays, autism and Down syndrome. It serves a poor community of parents with no other resources for their handicapped children. The school of 120 students operates during the school day and accepts children and adults up to age 40+. It provides meals, special education, skills training for carpentry and laundry, life skills, medical attention, language therapy and family counseling.”

Funds from the Trust will help to purchase outdoor equipment for the school’s playground.

**RWANDA - KIGALI - Repair of sewing machines at an orphanage - a project proposed by Rose Jackson, Information Resource Officer; Krista Fay, General Services Office Housing Coordinator; and Christine Miller, Self Help Coordinator.**

“The Rwanda Orphanage Project (ROP) is currently caring for 95 homeless boys from ages 6 to 18, providing shelter, food, water, education and health care to some of the most vulnerable children of Kigali, Rwanda.” This orphanage can “happily boast that their students score in the top 10% nationally and the number attending higher education is increasing because of ROP student’s strong educational foundation.”

“The orphanage owns 25 treadle sewing machines, only one operable, the rest needing professional repairs.” Repair of these machines will allow ROP to “offer vocational education for students and for the families in the surrounding community to learn a skill, preventing negative outcomes for the children.”

Funds from the Trust are being used repair the sewing machines, allowing the continued operation of a community sewing center.

**SIERRA LEONE - FREETOWN- Laptop computers for orphans - a project proposed by Kelly Barics, Consular Assistant, and William Hagan, Information Resource Management Officer.**

“Sierra Leone is one of the six poorest nations on the globe with over 70 percent of its citizens living on less than \$1 per day, a life expectancy of 48 years of age, and 40% of its people over age 15 who are illiterate.”

Since it was formed in 2004, “the Saint George Foundation has grown from a food program focused on alleviating hunger among homeless children in Freetown to become more comprehensive: housing, educating and providing medical care for the children. In the last five years, the Foundation has brought in approximately 700 children and reunited approximately 600 with their families or foster parents. Of note is that St. George’s regularly receives up to 30 new children in one week, and often many of the children are those who were previously re-integrated into their communities and families.”

Funds from the Trust are being used to purchase inexpensive, solar powered laptop computers with the goal of enhancing the children’s education and “empowering them to break the cycle of poverty afflicting the country.”

**SOUTH AFRICA - JOHANNESBURG - Social action campaign against rape and sexual violence - a project proposed by Christine Wendler, Community Grants Coordinator, U. S. Consulate.**

“South Africa is dubbed the ‘rape capital of the world’, estimated by Interpol at one rape every 17 seconds.” “**Take A Stand** is a social action campaign designed by Christine Wendler to combat the alarmingly high rate of rape in South Africa by raising the visual profile of the issue, through **Take A Stand** t-shirts, window stickers, shopping bags and other products.” The campaign will also “give presentations to organizations, companies, churches and schools and will maintain a web site.”

Funds from the Trust are being used to help with the cost of producing the **Take A Stand** products.

**SOUTH SUDAN- JUBA - School supplies for children living in a shelter - a project proposed by Vickie Burnham, Nurse Practitioner, Health Unit, U. S. Embassy.**

“Thirty five girls, ages 6 - 17 are the target group of the grant.” These girls are “living at the CCC (Confident Children Out of Conflict) shelter in war ravaged South Sudan, which provides shelter, food, education and caring for children.” All of these girls come from “absolute poverty and the most derelict slums of Juba” and “CCC seeks to provide these young girls a childhood free from abuse and exploitation.”

Funds from the Trust will help meet the objective of the grant applicant to “help support the efforts of CCC by providing school supplies.”

**THAILAND - BANGKOK - Repairs to a children’s center - a project proposed by Angelika M. Chin, Supervisory Regional Human Resource Officer, and Jameson L. DeBose, Vice Consul.**

Ban Khru Noi Child Development Center was started in 1980 by one woman, Khru Noi, who saw that “many children in her neighborhood could not receive government-sponsored primary education due to inadequate documentation, such as household registration and birth certificates,” and were “relegated to the streets while their parents worked long hours for low wages.” “She resolved to provide these children with adequate documents, using her own address to register them for school, provide them with meals and provide extracurricular activities,” and since 1980 has served over 1,000 children.”

The number one concern is the poor condition of the facility; funds from the Trust are being used to repair and replace the ceiling above the kitchen where over 20,000 meals are prepared each year.

**THAILAND - CHIANG MAI- Vocational education for a school for orphans - a project proposed by Jennifer Wise, Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration.**

The hill tribe people who “live in remote areas in the mountains are considered ‘non-people’ by the Thai government,” and have “little access to adequate shelter, food, education and employment opportunities.” “Projects for Asia Foundation operates the *Hope House Children’s Home* which houses 60 hill tribe children who are abandoned, orphaned, or their parents in jail for drugs, and some are from severely destitute homes. These children attend the *Hope and a Future School*, located on the same campus as the home.

The children often lack “the most basic life skills such as personal hygiene, laundry and cleaning skills, basic manners and proper oral communication.” “The goal of this project is to provide the children with skills necessary to survive in Thai society.”

Funds from the Trust will help to fund “kitchen appliances to teach cooking, computers for additional computer training and sewing machines to help in sewing skills training.”

**UGANDA - KABALE - A water tank for drinking water at a school - a project proposed by Anita Cox, Economic Officer, spouse of Paul C. Cox, Management Officer.**

“Lack of access to clean water and the effects of dehydration kill children in Africa on a daily basis. In sub-saharan Africa, 300 million people do not have access to clean water”. The Mpambara-Cox Foundation (MCF) “has been working to provide access to drinking water for school children by installing rain water harvest systems in school compounds for improved hydration and hygiene during the school day.”

The applicant’s son, Miles, now age 13, “learned about water scarcity in his 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies class and as a boy scout, raised funds from his school (American School of Bombay) to install a water tank at Bugomora Primary School where he volunteered.” The money raised was enough to install a 6000 liter capacity tank, which turned out to be insufficient.”

Funds from the Trust have enabled the installation of a 10,000 liter tank to supplement the current 6,000 liter tank, allowing access to drinking water for all the children.

**UNITED ARB EMIRATES - ABU DHABI - English lessons for embassy workers - a project proposed by Judes E. DeBaere, the Abu Dhabi Management Team.**

“The American staff at U. S. Embassy Abu Dhabi, UAE has volunteered to conduct after hours English language lessons for a group of 25 Third Country National contracted employees,” primarily from South East Asia, who are working as gardeners and janitors at the Embassy.

The ability to speak English enables the workers to more effectively communicate and interact with Embassy staff, to qualify for higher wages, and to enhance their confidence and self-esteem.

Funds from the Trust were used to purchase English language books, workbooks with audio CDs, pencils and paper.

**UKRAINE - KYIV - Literacy and English language center for an orphanage - a project proposed by Leah Evans, spouse of Arthur Evans, Public Affairs Officer, and Enri Fort, spouse of John Fort, Information Management Specialist.**

“Otchy Dim (Father’s House) is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political orphanage located in Kyiv, Ukraine.” “Currently home to sixty children ages 2 to 19, the orphanage was started in 1996 and since that time has taken “hundreds of children off the streets and provided them with education, food, clothing and adoption or preparation for adult life” “The current focus is to provide older children with skills to increase the likelihood of employment and a satisfactory life experience post-orphanage.”

The embassy community has been donating books to the library and tutoring in English on a regular basis. Funds from the Trust will provide “additional materials to make a richer and more thorough learning experience for the children” and provide them with the ability to speak English, a marketable job skill.

**VIET NAM - HANOI - Beautification project for an orphanage - a project proposed by Christopher Schirm, Vice Consul.**

“Since 1990, The Center for Nurturing Orphans and Malnourished Children (CNOMC) in Hanoi has offered a home for abandoned and orphaned children. CNOMC regularly has anywhere from 30 to 50 children ranging in ages from newborn to six years old.”

The orphanage was “previously fully funded by Holt International, an internationally recognized child care organization, but funding was drastically cut in 2010 when cooperation between the government of Vietnam and Holt International was ended.” “Because of a lack of funding, the grounds of the orphanage have fallen in to disrepair.”

Funds from the Trust will be used to “paint the outside walls in colorful engaging paintings and murals,” and to “paint a world map on the floor of the courtyard for teachers to use in their lessons to older children.”

**YEMEN - SANA'A - Computers and English language software for an orphanage - a project proposed by Janice Forman, Office Management Specialist/Assistant to Ambassador and Carolyn Ratzlaff, Assistant General Services Officer, U. S. Embassy.**

“The Al-Rahma Foundation and Orphanage in Sana’a, Yemen is a residential facility that provides a home for 400 of Yemen’s poorest citizens, abused, abandoned or orphaned children.” “Al-Rahma relies on donations and income from sales of their handy craft items to provide the home, education, medical and dental care, and recreational activities.”

Funds from the Trust are being used to help Al-Rahma add a computer classroom at the on-site school.