

## J Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust

### GRANTS AWARDED IN 2016

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 January 2016, the Trust once again invited proposals from 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 a substantial number of proposals. With its modest resources, the Trust was able to provide funding for 41 of these projects. Grants ranged from \$500 to \$3150 for a total of \$92,073. The following pages describe the projects supported by the Trust in 2016. These projects are listed in descending order, from those with the highest level of Board support to those with the lowest.

**CHINA - BEIJING** - To fund the purchase of new doors, faucet heads and plumbing materials and electrical outlets for Sun Village Children's Home in Shunyi, Beijing, Chin which is ineligible for any state-sponsored funding.

**INDIA - NEW DELHI** - To buy playground equipment and art supplies for Village Cottage Home which provides shelter for 56 poor boys and girls ranging in age from 4-11 years old.

**PARAGUAY - ASUNCION** - To purchase trees for an orchard and bee-keeping hives, equipment and colonies for an orphanage and school.

**BELARUS -MINSK** - To partner with a local charitable group, "Dobroe Delo" (Good Deed) established and run by parents of autistic children to improve school facilities for their kids.

**SOUTH SUDAN - JUBA** - To rehabilitate two common learning spaces at the Confident Children Out of Conflict Center. Will help to foster a safe learning environment conducive to the needs of some of South Sudan's most vulnerable children.

**CHILE - SANTIAGO** - To purchase athletic equipment to enhance engagement at community center for orphans.

**SOUTH AFRICA - DURBAN** - To improve care and safety at La Lucia Baby House, a crisis home for orphaned and abandoned babies.

**LATVIA - RIGA** - To purchase new playground equipment to be installed on public land in a small town 25 km from Riga. The equipment will serve the large number of refugee children living in a nearby detention facility while hoping to be resettled in Latvia.

**UKRAINE - KIEV** - To purchase supplies for English language classrooms and established English library at a secondary school in a small town near Kiev.

**EL SALVADOR - SAN SALVADOR** - To support the improvement of a tree nursery to help re-forest the count and generate income for rural families living in a small town.

**ISRAEL - TEL AVIV** - To provide the funds to help children of migrant workers and asylum seekers to attend summer camp.

**MOLDOVA -CHISINAU** - To expand an income generating sewing program that serves at-risk adolescents and their parents.

**ECUADOR - QUITO** - To purchase physical therapy equipment for Foundation Jonathan, a community based organization that provides food and clothing as well as medical and dental services to economically disadvantaged children and senior citizens.

**ITALY - ROME** - To increase skills of refugees as the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center by establishing a train the trainer sewing technique and garment construction program.

**KYRGYSTAN - BISHKEK** - To partner with the local Babushka Adoption Charity to supply elderly people material for making souvenirs to boost their income each month.

**ISRAEL - TEL AVIV** - To purchase playground equipment for an outdoor area that was vandalized in a hate crime against 60 asylum seeking children from Eritrea.

**CHINA - HONG KONG** -To replace out-of-date, non-functional medical and dental supplies at the headquarters of Po Leung Kuk, an organization dedicated to protecting the young and innocent in the city.

**RUSSIA - ST. PETERSBURG** - To purchase convertible day beds for parents of terminally ill children staying at the Children's Hospice.

**MEXICO - GUADALAJARA** - To expand a soup kitchen located at the Community Service Program that offers basic health information, vocational training and motivational workshops to teens and adults.

**INDONESIA - JAKARTA** - To create a safe haven/shelter for children diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

**GUATEMALA - GUATEMALA CITY** - To build a fence to enclose the community school property for safety and health reasons.

**GHANA - ACCRA** - To furnish a new group home for girls that strives to provide a safe and nurturing environment for young women at risk and alone in the city.

**NIGERIA - LAGOS** - To provide cervical and breast cancer education and screening for women of child-bearing age in the impoverished community of Makoko, a slum on the marshy waterfront of the city.

**BURMA - RANGOON** - To build a combined shower, toilet, and laundry facility at a shelter that houses 80 boys and girls from all over the country including areas affected by the ongoing civil war.

**RUSSIA - YEKATERINBURG** - To make the wood working workshop at a center for people with disabilities by making the doorways wheelchair accessible, installing a fire door and painting the corridor.

**CYPRUS - NICOSIA** - To host a holiday celebration focused on assisting Caritas Internationals Charity Service to provide dinner, crafts and gifts to mothers with little income.

**LIBERIA - MONROVIA** -To provide 30 hours of training in key skills in American Sign Language to medical and law enforcement professionals to enhance their understanding of deaf issues and increase their communication abilities.

**MAURITIUS - PORT LOUIS** - To purchase 16 twin size bed and 5 crib size mattresses along with the corresponding sheets for two local shelters housing LGBTI youth and teen mothers.

**ECUADOR - QUITO** - To construct and furnish a new vocational-training workshop at Foundation Alas de Colibi, a non-profit organization that provides shelter, continuing education, life-skills training and psychological support to victims of human trafficking.

**VIETNAM - HO CHI MINH CITY** - To build a deep water well to supplement fresh water supply for water filtration plant.

**INDIA - CHENNAI** - To provide supplies and training for young mothers of children with disabilities by teaching them to make fair trade goods for the global market.

**ECUADOR - GUAYAQUIL** - To assist at-risk youth in a predominantly Afro-Ecuadorian neighborhood by constructing a basketball court and starting basketball clinics.

**GHANA - ACCRA** - To develop a baseball/softball field for U.S. Embassy personnel and families, expats and locals of all ages.

**MEXICO - HERMOSILLO** - To deter youth from drugs and violence by teaching hip-hop's original dance form, "breaking," and developing a community of healthy, positive self-expression.

**GREECE - ATHENS** - To repair the roof and interior walls and repaint the water-damaged interior of the Muscular Dystrophy Association facility.

**ISRAEL - TEL AVIV** - To promote increased awareness of options for and access to higher education for asylum seekers, age 17-20, in the country.

**GAMBIA - BANJUL** -To develop a series of short, health education dramas on the causes and consequences of rheumatic heart disease, as well as ways to prevent it and treat it for pediatric patients and their parents at a cardiac clinic.

**BRAZIL - SAO PAULO** - To promote multimodal commuting to improve citizens' health, increase accessibility, especially for disadvantaged populations and mitigate environmental degradation through the use of collective and non-motorized transport.

**CROATIA - ZAGREB** - To establish a one-week summer program in playwriting, integrative dance and improvisational theater for a group of young people with disabilities from Croatia and the Russian Federation.

**ZIMBABWE - HARARE** - To provide desks, school supplies and sports equipment for secondary students at a rural school near Victoria Falls.

**SOUTH AFRICA - PRETORIA** -To provide bedding, furnishings, educational material and playground equipment to a local orphanage.