

Sanitation Project in the Philippines

Gary Gillis

Stockton Rotary #92 and our District #5220 are partnering with the Rotary Club of Vigan and their District #3790. Our project will construct sanitation facilities (latrines) at 11 high schools in the greater Vigan area in the Philippine state of Ilocos Sur. The sanitation facilities are, in their words, "little more than outhouses" and are "very dirty, and impossible to clean due to old wood and porous concrete."

Ron Singson, a former Stocktonian, lives in the area and has done several education projects for Rotary with the assistance of Stockton rotary and specifically the Hull family. This is the first time he has done a construction project with us for Rotary. He is the incoming president of Vigan Rotary for next year and travels yearly to Stockton to visit family and friends. A delegation of Rotarians will visit Vigan this year to assist in anyway we can (stay out of the way) and observe the fruits of our partnership. In addition, we will be able to enjoy the local culture and the beautiful landscape of this area.

There is a UNESCO world heritage site in the area. This Rotary Matching Grant has been approved at the District level for a total of \$24, 806 of which \$5,902 comes from Stockton Rotary.

Here is an excellent example of Rotarians reaching out between two nations to further the ideals of cultural exchange, understanding and mutual benefit. We will set up a travel after Rotary International approves and Ron can get the construction times down.