

## HONOUR TO ÅSHILD LUNDGAARD, RAUFOSS ROTARY CLUB



During the Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration in Atlanta Georgia, one of the highlights will be the recognition of outstanding Global grant projects. As the saying goes, behind every successful man, there is a woman. It can similarly be said that behind every successful project, there must have been a 'central cog' around which the wheel of success rotated.

### BRIEF HISTORY ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF ÅSHILD LUNDGAARD

It all started over six years ago when a team from Linda Foundation visited Kenya. Linda Foundation has been supporting the child care in Aro Development Centre.

When they visited Kenya they decided to visit Dala Rieko, a community based Organization at the shores of Lake Victoria. 'Dala Rieko' in the native Luo language means 'House of wisdom'.



The organization was started by Tor Steinar Rafoss and his wife as the main founders and Alex Omino, a local community member as the Founding Father. The main reason the team from Linda Foundation visited Dala Rieko was to greet Tor Steinar Rafoss who is also a Norwegian. The three founder volunteers have steered the organization through the various livelihood support activities in the region. In the visiting team was a lady called Åshild. As the

team was being shown around by Tor, Åshild got the opportunity to look around, ask questions and took notes.

The team went back to Norway and it was also during this time that Åshild decided to share her experiences with fellow Rotarians and friends. She sent a request to ask Tor Steinar and Alex Omino if they could consider working with Rotary International. This was acceptable as it provided a great opportunity and for possible support to this organization.

Water supply and sanitation were identified as areas requiring greatest attention. While Åshild took the leading role of mobilizing resources in Norway, Alex was tasked to identify a rotary club in Kenya who could host the project. After several unsuccessful visits to different clubs, lady



luck struck and Rotary club of Maseno accepted to host the project. Thanks to Rotarian Richard Onono, who was then the Club president. A working chemistry instantly developed between Mr Onono and Åshild.

Åshild as the international partner primary contact devotedly coordinated activities between Rotary Clubs in Norway while Maseno through Mr Onono as the host club primary contact was, also devotedly doing the paperwork. Dala Rieko through Alex ensured that the necessary information was promptly provided.

This tireless work of Åshild and the team gave birth to one of the most successfully projects in Kenya, Dala Rieko Water and Sanitation project. As we speak this project has been recognized at County Government of Siaya in Kenya.



There is a possibility of being included in the list of projects for possible recognition at the Atlanta conference.

During the last season, there was serious drought in Kenya, lack of water resulted in serious sanitation issues particularly particularly to the

vulnerable group, the children. Once again, Åshild was at it again. The result was a second Global Grant dubbed WASH in Schools.

The broad objective is to Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education as an important drivers to improved literacy in schools.

The project has since started and is projected to end by the end of this year.

Åshild has also spearheaded the formation and registration of The Rotary Community Corps (RCC) of Dala Rieko. This is the sustainability component of the project. The RCC will ensure the project realizes both short and long terms of the goals of transforming this community and by extension the whole county at large.

To the Kenyan community, going by the feedback from the project location, Åshild is their hero and will always remain indebted to her.

THANK YOU