

Chesapeake PETS

2024 Service Project

Project Title: Rotary Toiletry Kits for Community Support

Project Objective: The objective of this project is to collect basic hotel/travel-sized toiletries and create toiletry kits to be distributed by Club Presidents-Elect (PEs) within their communities. These kits will provide essential hygiene items to those in need, including homeless and transitional individuals.

Project Components:

1. **Toiletry Collection Drive:** Rotary members and volunteers will collect hotel/travel-sized toiletries, including: shampoo, conditioner, body wash/soap, lotion, sturdy wide-tooth comb, toothbrush, and toothpaste.
2. **Community Assessment:** Prior to the district's CPETS (Club Presidents-Elect Training Seminar), Rotary members are encouraged to conduct a community assessment to identify shelters, social services, and organizations supporting homeless and transitional individuals in their local communities.
3. **CPETS Participation:** Rotary members will bring their collected toiletry items to the CPETS event and placed in one of nine bins based on what the items is (one type per bin)
4. **Kit Assembly:** During the beginning of the Friday evening social, CPETS attendees, including Club PEs, will work together to assemble toiletry kits using the collected items as an assembly line. Items will be placed in a Ziploc baggie with a handwritten note of encouragement written by a participant.
5. **Distribution Planning:** The 4 DGEs will equally divide the kits to then distribute throughout their District as they feel fit. Club PEs will collaborate with their fellow attendees at CPETS to discuss and plan the distribution of the toiletry kits within their respective communities based on their community assessments. This planning should include identifying specific locations, organizations, and individuals who will receive the kits. For example, the D7610 DGE will take their approx. 250 kits to their District room and divide among the 11 AGs to then distribute to their PEs who will deliver to their respective communities.

Benefits and Outcomes:

- Homeless and transitional individuals will receive essential hygiene items, improving their quality of life.
- Club PEs will gain valuable experience in community service and project planning.
- Rotary members will strengthen their connections with local organizations and services supporting those in need.
- The project will foster a sense of community and social responsibility among Rotary members.

Timeline:

- Toiletry Collection Drive: Ongoing leading up to the CPETS event to be delivered to CPETS Friday morning registration.
- Community Assessment: Before the CPETS event.
- CPETS Event: March 1-2, 2024.
- Kit Assembly and Distribution Planning: During the CPETS event.
- Kit Distribution: After the CPETS event, coordinated by individual Club PEs.

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Budget:

- Minimal budget required.
 - 8 large plastic bins or boxes
 - 1,000 quart sized Ziploc bags
 - 1,000 blank notes for encouragement
 - Sharpies for notes

Volunteers:

- Rotary members and volunteers within the district, especially Club PEs and their clubs.

Evaluation:

- The success of the project will be evaluated based on the number of kits assembled, the extent of community engagement by Club PEs, and the impact on the communities where the kits are distributed.

Communication:

- Regular communication will be maintained among Rotary clubs, PEs, and CPETS organizers to ensure the project's success and smooth coordination.

This project aims to instill the values of service and community engagement within the Rotary district while providing practical assistance to those who need it most.

(Chesapeake PETS 24 - Dec. 2023)

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