

Gilbert, AZ Rotary



P.O. Box 2054
Gilbert, Arizona 85299

Weekly Newsletter

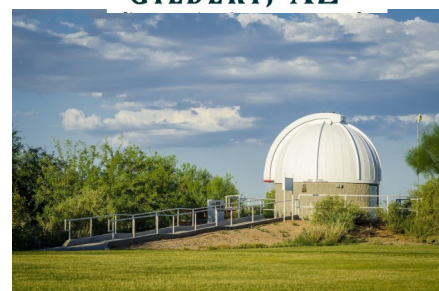
November 14, 2019
Volume 1 Issue 9

**GILBERT ROTARY
WEBSITE**

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/4016>



visit the
**Gilbert Rotary
Observatory**
GILBERT, AZ



WHERE WE MEET



**6542 East Baseline
Road**

Mesa, Arizona 85206

*We meet on the 1st, 2nd,
and 3rd Thursdays of each
month*

**For Gilbert Rotary information Contact Scott Jones
480-719-5343**

Last Week's Speaker:

Kathleen Duncan

Steps of Love



Steps of Love is a U.S.-based nonprofit whose mission is to help youth in Mexico break the cycle of poverty by facilitating access to quality educational opportunities. We partner with Mexican nonprofits whose focus is to support young people whose families lack the resources to send them to school and ensure they succeed.

In September of 2012 Kathleen Duncan began traveling to Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point) Mexico. She went to see a newly opened Child Crisis Shelter. In 2016 she led a group to help at-risk youth have access to education.

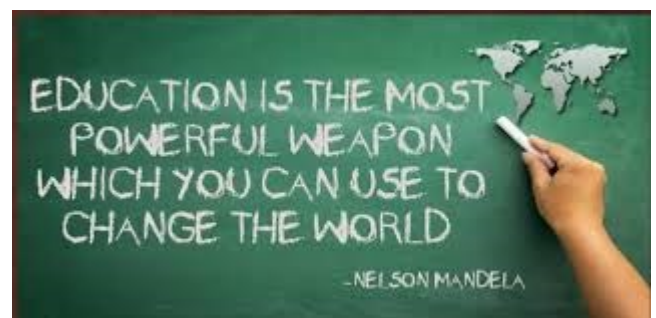
She and her husband have an organic farming operation in Buckeye. They regularly travelled to Puerto Penasco and you can't help but see children washing windows and selling gum (chicle) for money. She never thought about it and they went back to life until the next time they visited.

Soon their farming business began to thrive. She found herself not working full-time and they made more than they needed in resources to support their family.

She began traveling to Rocky Point and volunteering at the Crisis Shelter and she invested more and more resources for education and help.

Her 3 year investment paid off, she build strong relationships in the community and she gained their trust. She wanted to find those kids in need of schooling. She formed a local advisory group there to do this work. Mexico gives free education through the 6th grade. But Mexico's education isn't really free. 70% of children never make it to school.

Steps of Love



Children often do not have birth certificates which keeps them from school and often their parents cannot read or write. If parents cannot afford a backpack with supplies then they can't go to free public school.

In August 2016, they identified 70 kids and the local team followed them to make sure they had what they needed. And 70 kids completed. They opened two Homework clubs (similar to Boys and Girls Club). Kids spend a half-day there. They had 168 students.

In 2018, they had 4 Homework Clubs with 588 students. Retention is over 98% with so many more on the waiting list. It is affordable and effective.

Often Kathleen is asked, why Mexico? Why not here in the US. We are privileged in the US. In Mexico there is a return on the investment.

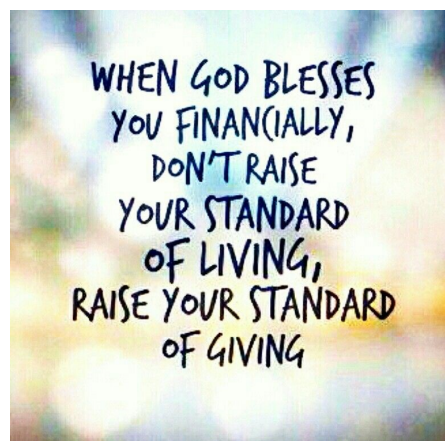
The cost to sponsor a child for the entire program is \$34.80 per month. Out of 72 students the first year, 19 graduated from Middle School, and none were going on to High School. Last June, all graduated from High School and 19 went on to College.

Educated students become empowered adults.

They put together promotional material and heartfelt interviews with parents and children. Their focus now is on support from the State, Government and Community and forming a true partnership.

Duncan says 7 Rotary Clubs have gone to Rocky Point, visited, and saw first-hand, the great work going on there and they want to grow the program plus start an intensive English program and support 50 kids per session in homework club.

Current statistics have 49 in college, 118 in High School, 89 in Middle School and the rest in grade school.



The cost is \$380 a semester at the public university. Their corporation also wants to support these kids through college. They aim for commitment and consistency.

Perhaps Gilbert Rotary would want to work with her organization?

The Rotary Club of Puerto Penasco is also looking for a partner in a global grant.

Visit her website at stepsoflove.org for more information.

There is a great deal of financial accountability and it is understood that families that are helped must give back.

The children are also seen free every six months.

Thank you Kathleen for your visit and for all that you are doing to help kids in Rocky Point.



November 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Upcoming Meetings and Events

November 21, 2019 – Club Assembly

November 23, 2019 Gilbert Days Parade—8 AM

December 5, 2019 – Club Meeting at Boy's and Girls Club

DG Visit to Club—December 12, 2019 7 AM Please arrive by 6:30 AM

NOVEMBER IS



TAKE ACTION: www.rotary.org/give

Attendance: Curt Ward, Bill Nuzbach, Bill Kehl, Isa Revelle, Debe Mahoney, Mike Flores, Donna Backhaus, Greg McAlpin, Dr. Vince Pellegrino, Joe Papapietro, Lloyd Porter, Sheri Shepherd, Dave Hutchinson, Diana Tacey, George Pettit, Carla Rowe-Malcolm, Pat and Jim Schermetzler, Scott Jones and Chuck Holland

Visiting Rotarian: Dan Coons from Mesa West Rotary

Guest Speaker: Kathleen Duncan - Steps of Love