

District 5300 Group Study Exchange Team Heading to Brazil

The District 5300 Group Study Exchange Team is heading to Brazil District 4390 April 17, 2010. And yes, we are excited!

Four team members and 3 alternates were chosen from a group of 12 applicants last summer. I've been interviewing and hiring employees for 30 years; I have never seen an applicant pool of this quality! Each was an accomplished and charismatic young professional. What a difficult selection that was.

Our Team has morphed since that time. Team Leader Mike Driebe had to withdraw in December as a result of professional demands. I had been selected as his alternate, so stepped in as Leader December 5th. Subsequently two of our team Members had to withdraw, also for professional reasons, resulting in this final Team:

Clarissa Cassara, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Monrovia. Clarissa is an account manager for a private insurance company.

Joe Lawrence, Rotary Club of Alhambra. Joe is a fireman with the Alhambra Fire Department. Joe's sponsor is Alhambra Fire Chief, Bruce Stedman, a member of the 1995 GSE trip to Japan. Bruce described this as a life-changing event, so was eager to recommend Joe.

Jacquelyn Maples, Rotary Club of Apple Valley, is an Organizational Development Specialist at St Mary's Medical Center.

I am **Adrienne Cox**, past president of the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest. I am self employed, having retired from the administration of Clark County's child welfare and juvenile justice services.

Thank you to so many of our District's Clubs that have generously contributed additional money to help support the Team members' unfunded expenses. My goal is \$3,000 to help pay for Visa's, uniforms, host and vocational gifts, luggage add ons, and may other required expenses. It's not too late for Clubs to contribute! To do so, send a check to our District Administrator, Cathy Raacke.

Each of us on the GSE Team is so thankful for this life-changing opportunity. We will make presentations at both the District 4390 Conference in Brazil, and at our District 5300 Conference, June 10-13, at the Green Valley Ranch in Henderson, Nevada. You'll be amazed at the accomplishments of these wonderful young professionals! Upon our return, they will make presentations, as invited by individual Clubs, on our adventures in Brazil.