

## **Art for Children in Distress**

Rotary District Grant; Project P-1409  
Progress Report #1 (12/5/2016)

The objective of the Grant is to give painting materials (art packs with water color, brush, crayons, and paper (Att.1)) to kids for art therapy.

Our collaborating partners are Art4Kids, which provides the art packs & guidance, and Family Assistance Ministries (FAM), which distribute the art packs to needy kids while providing meals and other services. Art4Kids received \$3000 (to deliver a total of 450 packs) on 9/7/2016 (Att.2); FAM received 100 art packs on 9/7/2016 and 200 art packs on 11/21/2016.

Six Rotarians (Att.3a-f) distributed over 250 art packs during FAM's Thanksgiving Feast on 11/23/2016 in San Clemente, where over 500 meals were served (Att.4a-e).

Many kids took their art packs home, either because the kids were too shy to use them or because of time and space limitations. Painting at home allows the children to have valuable private time, for examining their own feelings & thoughts and building the life skills of using art to express emotions.

Other kids used the packs within the atmosphere of the Thanksgiving Dinner, which allowed for sharing, peer to peer interactions, and developing of social skills as well as self-expression as observed by the Rotarians (Att.5, 5a-g).

In either case, the children saw that the community cares and that their art is valued.

The reaction of the children was heartening and rewarding enough to make this a great experience for the Rotarians and other volunteers. Kids proudly showed their paintings to the Rotarians.

Possible “workshops”, where 20 to 40 needy kids in one room are experiencing art therapy through painting under the guidance of a *Certified Expressive Arts Practitioner*, a board member of Art4Kids, is being explored through FAM (homeless shelter), Marine Base Camp Pendleton (Community Services or Child Development Center), other.

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