

Let's Connect

Bring this idea back to your club, or contact the District 5970 International Service team directly — we'll help you find a match and take the first step.

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Rotary International District 5970 · 49 clubs · North & Central Iowa · District Governor Jeff Halverson

Printed 8/2026

“Two clubs, one shared purpose — that's the heart of a sister club relationship.”

It Starts With One Project

A club near Chicago met a club in Guatemala while delivering water filters to a village outside Antigua. A shared interest turned into repeat visits and regular video calls, then a Global Grant that funded a school nutrition program and a women's micro-business. A decade later, the two clubs are still working side by side — and the members consider each other family.

Rotary Club of Barrington Breakfast, IL & Rotary Club of Guatemala Sur



Not Ready to Commit Yet?

Rotary Fellowships, Friendship Exchanges, and project fairs are lower-key ways to meet clubs abroad before forming a sister club relationship. See panel 3, inside.

PARTNER ACROSS BORDERS

Sister Clubs



Rotary

District 5970



International Service Committee

1 What Is a Sister Club?

A sister club (sometimes called a twin club) is a long-term partnership between your club and a Rotary club in another country, built on shared interests and a commitment to service.

The relationship is yours to shape. Most sister clubs stay in regular contact, trade club bulletins, host visits, and work together on service projects — sometimes growing into a joint Rotary Foundation Global Grant.

Why it matters for District 5970:

Deepens the international engagement we're tracking across our 49 clubs

Opens the door to Global Grant partnerships and shared funding

Builds real friendships — not just a project, a relationship

Gives members (and their families) a personal connection abroad



In 2013 District 5970 clubs Marion East and Fort Dodge did a Friendship Exchange with District 4590 in Rio Claro, Brazil, visiting the Children's Rehabilitation Center which was the recipient of a \$38,144 global grant sponsored by District 5970. The relationship started as a sister club between the Emmetsburg Club and Rio Claro.

2 How to Get Started

- 1 **Talk it over.** Raise the idea at a club meeting or board session — gauge interest and identify a project lead.
- 2 **Find a candidate club.** Browse ideas.rotary.org, ask District 5970's International Service team, or reconnect with a club you've worked with before.
- 3 **Start small.** Propose a single joint service project as a first step — a trial run before any formal commitment.
- 4 **Formalize the friendship.** Sign a simple sister club agreement between the two club presidents, ideally with both District Governors present.
- 5 **Keep it alive.** Regular calls, bulletin exchanges, and an annual joint activity keep the relationship growing.



Luis Pedro Fuxet Ciani, president of the Rotary Club of Guatemala Sur, and Suzanne Gibson, president of the Rotary Club of Barrington Breakfast, sign a sister club agreement.

3 Finding the Right Match

Look for a club that:

Shares similar interests, causes, or club culture

You've already crossed paths with — through a grant, exchange student, or conference

Sits in a region matching your club's service interests

Shares a common language, or is enthusiastic about working across one

Not ready for a full commitment? Meet clubs abroad first through:

- **Rotary Fellowships** — shared-interest groups that connect members worldwide
- **Rotary Friendship Exchange** — short hosted visits built around culture, service, or vocation
- **Project fairs** — regional events where clubs showcase projects and find partners
- **Intercountry Committees (ICCs)** — standing networks between countries that often lead to sister club relationships

Project ideas to open the conversation:

Clean water

Literacy

Youth exchange

Maternal health

Vocational training