

ROTARY COLLECTIONS

Ring Pulls

The humble ring pull from a can could change a Thai person's life.

This program, which has been going since 1992 originally saw the ring pulls melted down and sent overseas to produce prosthetic limbs for victims of landmines in Thailand.

Today they are sold locally and the proceeds are sent to RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) where the funds are sent to The Protheses Foundation in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

It takes 2,500 ring pulls to produce approximately one kilogram of aluminium and this allows seven sets of joints to be fabricated.

Since 1992, The Protheses Foundation has made over 22,000 prostheses and repaired nearly 4,000.

Stamps

Used postage stamps, on or off envelopes, are sent to organisations supporting people with disability who cut them out as a form of voluntary work and therapy.

They are then sold overseas to assist OXFAM in the UK and a hospital project through a Rotary Club in India.

In India they package the stamps into individual stamp packs and sell them to collectors or as souvenirs to visiting tourists. So far, this project has raised well over a million dollars, thus creating both local, as well as international benefits.

Glasses

Unwanted spectacles are sent to Sri Lanka. In 2014, more than 4000 pairs were sent to Sri Lanka along with two spectacle grading machines. This has enabled the Rotary Club of Colombo to set up its own project in conjunction with local optometrists to distribute them to people in need.

Soap Aid

Today across the globe 2.4 billion people lack adequate sanitation, causing the spread of infectious diseases and preventable deaths.

As a direct result, a tragic 5.9 million children under the age of 5 died in 2015 with over 50% of those deaths due to preventable childhood infectious diseases and conditions such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, meningitis, tetanus, HIV and measles. Pneumonia and diarrhoea remain major killers of young children throughout the world today, accounting for 25% of the deaths of children aged less than 5.

To prevent these needless deaths, Soap Aid collect partially used and discarded soap from hotels in Australia and New Zealand sending them to a central processing plant, where they re-process the soaps and turn them into new, useful bars of soap that will help save lives.

Every day thousands of hotels around the world discard millions of soap bars that may be used only once or twice.

Since it was set up in 2011 Soap Aid has

- Collected waste soap from 300+ leading hotel groups across Australia and New Zealand
- Recycled 470,000+ (100gm) bars of soap and redirected 47 tonnes of waste soap from entering landfill
- Distributed lifesaving soap to 100,000+ children and adults in communities in Australia and overseas

Soap Aid has proudly partnered with the WA Country Health Service and will provide support by providing soap and education resources as part of the 'Squeaky Clean Kids' Program. The goal is to reach 63 remote Aboriginal communities across the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest and Goldfields with populations of up to 19,500 across schools, households and community facilities. Soap Aid will be providing recycled soap and hygiene education resources to help reduce the spread of preventable infectious diseases and improve hygiene practices.

Soap Aid is coordinated in WA through Rotary and Foodbank is assisting with the distribution