

To: All Rotarians in District 6650

August 13, 2011

From: Phil Mariola, District GSE Chair

Dear Rotarians, I need your help. One of The Rotary Foundation's signature programs is Group Study Exchange, wherein 2 Rotary Districts in different countries pair up to send and receive professional study groups of 4 non-Rotarian team members and one Rotarian team leader to travel for approximately four weeks, staying in the homes of Rotarians.

This year, District Governor George Hays and the DG for District 2630 in central Japan have decided to have an exchange with a specific focus: professionals who work in the fields of rehabilitation, dementia care and Alzheimer's care. District 6650 will send out a team to Japan, arriving there May 6, 2012 and returning to Ohio on June 3. The Japanese team will be in our district from March 24 - April 24, 2012.

Here's where I need your help. We are actively recruiting a team leader and team members. The team leader must be a Rotarian. The team members must be between the ages of 25-40, cannot be Rotarians or close family members of Rotarians, and should work in one of the 3 fields mentioned above. Nearly all expenses are paid by Rotary. Applicants will need to present a letter from their employer stating that they have been cleared to be away for a month.

District 2630 in Japan contains the prefectures of Mie and Gifu. Two good websites for these areas are: <http://tourismmiejapan.com> and <http://kankou-gifu.jp/en/index.html>

There is good information about GSE on the RI website, www.rotary.org Click on the Service and Fellowship tab and scroll down to the Group Study Exchange link. Applications for Team Leader and Team Members can be downloaded from this page. Deadlines are: October 9 for Team Leader and Oct. 15 for Team Members.

Please give some thought to which young professionals you might know who would be good candidates. Think of professionals who work in rehab centers or in facilities which offer dementia and/or Alzheimer's care. They can be care givers or administrators. And, of course, any Rotarians with experience in these fields are encouraged to apply for the Team Leader position. All applications should be scanned and emailed to me. My email is philmariola@embargmail.com Telephone: 330-264-2806(home) 330-465-8131(cell). Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Phil Mariola, Wooster Rotary