



# For Immediate Release

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## *Districts 6780 & 2440 Win First Ever Rotary 3-H Grant for Breast Cancer Project in Turkey*

Rotary District 6780, which includes 65 Rotary clubs in East Tennessee, has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from The Rotary Foundation to begin a three-year project to improve breast cancer awareness in western Turkey and in Rotary District 2440 there.

The project will include breast cancer education efforts, training in self examinations, and early detection and screening mammograms.

Farragut Rotary applied for the grant, and it is the first awarded in the East Tennessee district through Rotary International's Health, Hunger, and Humanity (3-H) grant program.

"Breast cancer ranks second after lung cancer as the leading cause of death among Turkish women, yet if detected early enough, is also one of the most treatable forms of cancer," said Dr. Can Gürbüz, president of the Turkish Breast Foundation. According to Gürbüz, more than 95% of breast cancer patients in Turkey can be treated if the cancer is diagnosed in the earliest stages.

Here is a summary of the project:

- *This project will improve breast cancer awareness among healthcare providers and women aged 18+ in the medically underserved areas of the greater Izmir provincial area of Turkey.*
- *Physician-led, neighborhood seminars will focus on breast cancer education and training in breast self-examination and early detection.*

**Farragut Rotary Club**  
President: Fred Martin  
Secretary: Leah Berry  
Public Relations: Tom King



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- *Women aged 40+ will be referred to physicians for clinical breast examination and to begin periodic screening mammography.*
- *Program success will be tracked over time by a series of surveys and healthcare patient registry data.*
- *As a key partner, the Turkish Ministry of Health will sustain this project's momentum, fundamentally changing healthcare for generations of women.*
- Approximately 17,500 to 21,000 women age 18 and over will be directly reached in the training and education sessions, and approximately 742,000 girls and women 13 and over will be indirectly reached in these sessions.

"Farragut Rotary Club's own Bruce Williamson and Jim O'Brien have worked hard with District 2440 in Turkey to win the opportunity to help the women in Turkey have treatment for this disease, which can be cured if caught early. After a year of design and grant application submission, their efforts have been successful," said District 6780 Gov. Carol LaRue.

Districts 6780 and 2440 have completed eight projects together in the past 10 years, and O'Brien, a past president of the Farragut club, led a Group Study Exchange with District 2440.

"This relationship has grown for The Rotary Club of Farragut and our district," LaRue said. "After successful matching grant projects with this district, Bruce and Jim began pursuing the 3-H Grant idea with them.

"They identified a need within the district, won the agreement of District 2440 leaders, requested help from our district, and began the grant process. They invited other clubs to participate financially. With encouragement from the Grants Committee and other clubs, the hard work began. And now, it's a dream come true!"

Rotarians from the Cesme and Bursa-Uludag Rotary clubs in Turkey will be very involved in the effort, along with 500 Rotarians and their spouses. O'Brien says that at least 21 Rotarians from D6780 will work on this project for its duration.

Other Rotary clubs in D6780 participating in this project include the Knoxville, West Knoxville, Maryville, and Tellico Lake clubs. In addition the Thompson Cancer Survival Center and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure have also helped with the project.

Members of the International Project Management Committee include

O'Brien, Williamson, Patty Daughtrey, Sharon Mullens from the Knoxville club, Maryellen Duckett from the Rotary Club of North Knoxville, and John Bailey, District 6780 Rotary Foundation Chairman.

O'Brien added that the effort also will benefit an unknown number of men who could have breast cancer as well as other forms of cancer.

For more information about the project, District 6780, and Rotary International, visit [www.rotary6780.org](http://www.rotary6780.org).

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PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST