

SERVICE: SUPPORTING DAYS FOR GIRLS

Lions on Mayne Island are financially assisting the Mayne Island volunteer quilters in their "Days for Girls" initiative. Days for Girls is a global grass-roots network of thousands of volunteers who sew sustainable sanitary kits for distribution to girls in these countries where many school days are lost to girls who, because of a lack of sanitary supplies, are forced to remain at home during their monthly menstrual cycle.

This initiative provides freedom and education, impacting the lives of young women in Africa, South America, India and other countries where young women have these concerns. In Kenya, a girl can lose 36 percent of her school days because of this, says Allen Slade, first vice president.

Since 2008, Days for Girls has supplied more than 640,000 kits to young women in more than 100 countries, offering health education and support as well.

The club's financial support helps purchase materials and equipment to allow the Mayne Island Quilters to host monthly sewing sessions and produce a steady supply of kits to be sent to these countries. Each kit requires about six hours of volunteer time and contains washable pads, a washcloth, underwear, soap and other essentials in a colourful drawstring bag.

On Mayne Island, the volunteer fire department has also donated work space, so many volunteers can work together at one time.

"It is our goal to build on our partnership with the Mayne Island Quilters and facilitate similar connections by making presentations to Lions and quilters clubs within our district (Multiple District 19) of 58 clubs," says Slade. "Imagine the impact if similar collaborative initiatives between Lions clubs and quilters' guilds were established around the world." The Mayne Island Lions Club hopes that other Lions clubs will do the same in their communities.

Attention Travellers!

If you are staying over in hotels that provide packaged soaps it would be very helpful to the "Days for Girls project". If you could "HARVEST" as many of these soaps as possible (you can always get the hotel staff interested and provide attribution), the soaps are also included into the packages for the girls.