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Moraga Rotary announces construction of library and learning center in Goma, Congo

Submitted by Debbie Koo



LCL leadership team, from left: Alex Cobo, Contractor & Consultant from Florida; co-founders Paul Freedman and Goma Rotarian Fidel Bafilemba; local contractor and Goma Rotarian Placide Mumbere, BEL board member and computer scientist Michael Bafilemba; all wearing groundbreaking ceremonial shirts. Photo provided

identified the LCL as Moraga Rotary's newest international project in 2019. The other partner is the Go Campaign, which is a nonprofit organization which improves the lives of vulnerable children around the world by partnering with Local Heroes to deliver local solutions.

The groundbreaking was delayed for three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for a new site farther from potential lava flows from active volcanoes in the area. Freedman is an award-winning filmmaker and documentarian, and is the brother-in-law of Moraga Rotarian Debbie Koo. Freedman's documentary, "Merci Congo," highlighted the efforts of a handful of activists in the Congo and in the U.S. This is when Freedman met Bafilemba and marked the beginning of their journey as co-founders of the LCL.

You may follow the progress of this amazing project on Moraga Rotary's Facebook at www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofmoraga/ or Instagram at www.instagram.com/moragarotary/?hl=en.

Moraga Rotary meets at noon on most Tuesdays at LaFinestra Ristorante in Moraga. For information, e-mail to moragarotary.com.

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