

Help for Egypt – Despite political Unrest and drastic Changes, the RC Oldenburg helps to procure fresh water and educate women as a contribution to establish democracy

In cooperation with the RC Soissons (France) and RC Cairo-Heliopolis, the RC Oldenburg made it possible that an Egyptian village was connected to the Fresh Water Supply System. A population of 850 in a village north of Cairo now enjoys the pleasure of having fresh water on hand, after a pipeline of 1.500 m from the nearest supply point had been laid and all adjacent buildings had been connected. All work was done by local firms. The costs amounted to 31.000 US\$, a sum that was divided by three and, with the help of Rotary International, paid by the club members of the three clubs. In addition, the RC Oldenburg provided courses for reading and writing for 600 young girls and women. The method used was developed by Richard Walker and Brian Gray 25 years ago (CLE Concentrated Language Encounter method) which had originally been developed for teaching Australian and New Zealand aborigines. Lessons were offered in part inside public buildings, in part under open skies. Some of the women brought their children with them. They all enjoy the chance to gain some independence with the help of the subjects taught. Also, the RC Oldenburg financed the education of 30 teachers. Rotary Club members Martin Gutsche and Wulf Schmidt-Sacht together with a number of Egyptian friends inspected both projects recently, despite the political unrest. Mr. Gutsche reported that the Rotarian team was welcomed in the village not only by local delegations but also by the grateful women attending the courses offered, with kind and cordial words.