



### **CNY Books for the World ... a focus on Literacy**

#### **The Little Project That Thought It Could - DID IT!**

by ... Ward Vuillemot, Project Coordinator

**The Little Engine** - In 2004, a Rotarian led a team of young professionals to D7290, South Africa, on a Literacy focused Group Study Exchange (GSE). This experience resulted in a multi-district effort to provide basic education to hundreds of South African adults. In the spring of 2008, the Rotarian made a follow up trip to supply additional funds gleaned from several D7150 clubs, and while in the neighborhood, he paid a visit to PDG Ted Pope, a colleague in Johannesburg. Ted introduced him to their joint successful Books for the World (BFTW) project with PDG Charlie Clemmons, of Texas, which supplies gently-used books to the children of South Africa. *The little engine got its start as GSE experience, moving on to a Literacy RF Matching Grant, and the awareness of children in need of books.*

**The Coal Tender and Fuel** - Upon returning home, the Skaneateles HS Interact club accepted the challenge to put together a few cartons of children, early learner books for the less fortunate children of South Africa. The Interactors enthusiastically met the challenge with a number of cartons of books. *The little Engine started to move forward, fueled by youth and enthusiasm.*

**The Track and Destination** - A germ of an idea began to grow, which set the little engine down a set of tracks with some mighty great hills and valleys ahead. So a ten minute presentation was hastily arranged for at the 2008 Fall district conference, and route and destination was launched. Books by the pallet, sponsored by Rotary and Interact clubs. Big plans for a little engine! *But the Little Engine now had a destination and a purpose and it began repeating; ..... I think I can ...I think I can ...*

**The Caboose** - A crew was required to keep the engine maintained, fueled, watered and running on scheduled. Therefore, a dedicated crew of Rotarians and others, were brought aboard to keep it on track and running smoothly. *Now the little engine had its cab and caboose filled with an able crew. .... I know we can .... I know we can*

**The Rolling Stock** - The excitement of the idea caught on across the CNY districts and books started to fill the little engine's rolling stock. As it steamed along, more and more clubs and organizations jumped aboard to the point its route expanded to include 57 Rotary and Interact clubs, and numerous community churches, libraries, schools and youth organizations, across 5 Rotary districts (an area from Albany to Rochester, from Oneonta & Ithaca to Montreal) as well as over 45 businesses, and contributors. Over the hill chugging along, chanting. ... *I knew we could .... I knew we could.*


**Where is the little engine now?** It continues to wonder over the hills and valleys of Central New York picking up momentum as it moves more and more books to the children of the world. To date, it has moved 176 pallets, or approximately 300,000 pounds of books (nearly 6 forty foot sea containers) ... *we are making a difference ... we are making a difference.*

**Get a ticket and jump aboard ...** To learn more about this little project-train, visit its website at <http://cnyBooksfortheWorld.org> You will find how to become a Booklegger aboard this little project-train. ... *we did it! ... we did it!*

**Rotary Literacy Month**

**MAKE THE CONNECTION**

**CNY Rotary Books for the World**



**Communities**

**Schools**

**Libraries**

**Rotary Clubs**

**Children of the World**

<http://cnyBooksfortheWorld.org>