



Fact Sheet

International Reading Association and Rotary International

What is the purpose of this cooperative relationship?

The cooperative relationship between the International Reading Association and Rotary International provides a way to collaborate and combine resources so that more can be achieved to pursue their common objectives of developing community service projects to promote literacy worldwide. A memorandum of understanding between the two organizations was first signed in 2002 and renewed in 2005.

What is the International Reading Association?

The International Reading Association (IRA) is a professional membership organization dedicated to promoting high levels of literacy for all by improving the quality of reading instruction, disseminating research and information about reading, teachers, reading specialists, consultants, administrators, supervisors, university faculty, researchers, psychologists, librarians, media specialists, and parents. The IRA includes a network of 300,000 educators in nearly 100 countries who support a thriving professional program of publications, meetings, and advocacy and outreach efforts locally, nationally, and internationally.

What is the focus of this cooperative relationship?

RI and IRA are working together to develop community service projects to promote literacy worldwide. Rotary clubs and districts and the IRA's councils and affiliates are encouraged to share resources and information and to develop cooperative literacy projects.

How can my club or district get involved?

Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to consult with an IRA member representative to identify and address literacy needs in their community. Rotary clubs and districts should consider involvement in the Teacher Program, which is a joint effort of the IRA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the IRA's Reading for All: A Pan-African Voice for Literacy, in which Ugandan Rotary clubs play an active role. International Literacy Day, observed 8 September, focuses attention on worldwide literacy issues and needs. Rotary clubs and districts may wish to plan special activities around this time.

Rotary International encourages Rotary clubs and districts to share their related projects with RI staff by e-mailing programs@rotary.org so that they may be incorporated into the RI Community Projects Database.

Volunteers sought for International Reading Association programs

IRA is currently seeking technical advisers and trainers to serve on multiple projects in the areas of professional development, advocacy, and research. Projects take place in both the United States and other countries, especially those with developing economies. Guidelines and an application form are available at www.reading.org.

What else can my club do to help?

Once you have set up a project with the IRA, let RI's External Relations staff know about it. They may want to publicize it in one of Rotary's publications or at www.rotary.org. Send an e-mail with "International Reading Association" in the subject line to ers@rotary.org.

Additional Resources

Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects (605A-EN)

www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/605a_en.pdf

A Menu of Service Opportunities (605B-EN)

www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/605b_en.pdf

World Community Service Program

www.rotary.org/programs/wcs

The Rotary Foundation Humanitarian Grants Program

www.rotary.org/foundation/grants

RI Community Projects Database

www.rotary.org/programs/projectsdb

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| <p>Rotary International Programs Division (PD210) One Rotary Center 1560 Sherman Avenue Evanston, IL 60201-3698 USA www.rotary.org Phone 847-866-3436 Fax 847-866-6116 E-mail programs@rotary.org</p> | <p>International Reading Association 800 Barksdale Road PO Box 8139 Newark, DE 18714 USA www.reading.org Phone 302-731-1600 Fax 302-731-1057 E-mail pubinfo@reading.org</p> |
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