# NEWS RELEASE

**Overland Park Rotary Club**

**Donates 50K+ Books to Local Children**

**Overland Park, KS, 12/30/2016 —** The Rotary Club of Overland Park provided 87 education and charitable organizations in the Kansas City region with a donation of **57,404 children’s books**.

This first-time Children’s Book Drive was orchestrated by various Overland Park Rotary Club members in conjunction with [Feed the Children](http://www.feedthechildren.org/)’s book donation program. The book donation had a monetary equivalent of over $600,000 in children’s book titles; high quality books from publishers such as Disney and Marvel.

Rotary’s continued mission is “service above self,” and the Club felt this Children’s Book Drive was an impactful and positive way to provide homeless families, economically disadvantaged, and ***all children*** a meaningful and educational gift before the Christmas holiday. Each book donated included a sticker identifying the donation from the Overland Park Rotary Club and space for each child to write his/ her name in the book.

Future goals for the Children’s Book Drive project are to expand the children’s organizations reached in the Overland Park and Kansas City region, strengthen Rotary’s relationship with Feed the Children and explore expanding the Book Drive model out to other Rotary clubs across the country.

Special thanks to all the Club members who volunteered time and energies to sort, stack, load and unload over 5,000 cases of children’s books for the Book Drive; and **McCray Lumber & Millwork**, Edwardsville, KS, for donating warehouse space to store the books before distribution.

*Examples of Organizations impacted: Boys & Girls Club of Greater KC, Salvation Army, Rainbow Center, KVC, Head Start, SafeHome, Johnson County WIC Program, CASA, Catholic Charities, Sunflower House and many more.*

**About Rotary**

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteers dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges.Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 35,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and regions. Rotary members work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit [oprotary.org](http://www.oprotary.org/).

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ROTARY CLUB OF OVERLAND PARK