

2010 - 2011

Greenwich Rotary Club

Active in the Greenwich Community

2010-2011 Literacy Initiative
Greenwich Head Start
Greenwich RITE
Greenwich Juvenile Review Board
Greenwich Campership Program



Greenwich Rotary Members,

2010-11 was a very busy year for the Greenwich Rotary Community Projects Committee. It was a year of bold initiative, ambitious undertaking and grateful impact. We are in a diverse community affected by financial recession and in need of new support. We have provided leadership and acted on a commitment to support literacy and child development in our community.

We set on a multifaceted Annual Literacy Initiative that combined several literacy and child education programs that we have supported in the past and created a new annual commitment to our community. Our Annual Literacy Initiative includes financial and Rotarian support for Greenwich Elementary School students through the Reading-Is-Fundamental (RIF) Program, Reading Champions, Community Centers' Summer Reading Program, Ready Set Read, Super Reader Program, 3rd Grader Dictionary & Thesaurus distribution, and Back-to-School Supplies Program for Title I families.

Following a successful year of the Greenwich United-Way sponsored children intervention program, the Greenwich Juvenile Review Board's success has created a growing need for its services. The Greenwich Police and its Silver Shield Association has embraced the organization's direct intervention methods of success, and Greenwich Rotary has partnered with the Greenwich Police volunteers and Greenwich United Way in supporting this program with a Scholarship Fund and Rotarian volunteers.

The Greenwich Community, like many other diverse communities have been hit by the great recession of 2008. The high levels of unemployment and economically challenged families have taken its toll on the town's social services. We have supported 2 programs coordinated by Family Centers that directly address Title I families in town. We support the Greenwich Head Start Program, that addresses the literacy gap of lower income families by supporting its pre-school education programs in one the town's largest housing projects, and the Greenwich RITE, a program that supports Job training, search and vocational education to address unemployment in our community. We also support the financially challenged working families in our community by supporting over 40 campers in the Greenwich Campership Program, which allows working parents to enroll their children in one of our community summer camps on a greatly discounted tuition.

John Jee
Community Projects Chair

2010 Community Projects

2010 GREENWICH ROTARY LITERACY INITIATIVE	\$20,000
2010 Greenwich Summer Campership Program	\$10,000
2010 Greenwich Head Start	\$10,000
2010 Greenwich RITE	\$10,000
2010 Greenwich Juvenile Review Board Rotary Scholarship Fund	\$10,000



2010 GREENWICH ROTARY LITERACY INITIATIVE \$20,000

GREENWICH ROTARY LITERACY INITIATIVE

- Over 2,000 Children in Greenwich receives books and/or literary aid.
- Over 600 Title I children receive Rotary support.
- Over 100 Volunteer Tutors receive supplies & tutor aids funded by Rotary.
- 150 Title I Children receive Back-to-School supplies & Book bag.
- Sponsor 3 City-Wide Reading Incentive Campaigns & Award ceremonies.
- Over 18 Rotarians involved in the 11 School Assemblies throughout town in Dictionary & Thesaurus Distribution.
- Over 13 Rotarians involved in creating 150 Grade-Level Specific Back-to-School Supplies.
- Goal of Over 30 Rotarians involved in this Annual Literary Initiative to Community.

We directly support the needs of over 2,000 children in Greenwich.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) / BOOK DISTRIBUTION

Goal: 500 Children, 2 Distributions, \$4,300 (\$3,000 Rotary Contribution)

- Is a program that supports putting books in the hands of a poor, young learner.
- RIF is a federal program that enables schools to purchase books from publishers through catalogues at a reduced rate and offers partial funding for a book distribution assuming the school system has other funding from the community.
 - 4 Title I schools in Greenwich, there are approximate 500 children eligible for Title I based on income and under achievement
 - The district is asked to hold 3 book distributions during that year.
 - In Greenwich because we receive a gift of hard cover books from Diane's Books in December for Title I children, a distribution covered.
 - For the second distribution, approximately \$2,150.00 in books will be distributed, where approx 60% is paid by the Federal Program, provided 40% is raised in community.
 - The required 3rd distribution is solely by the community and will also host a book give away with the children during the year.
 - This means that a little over 500 hundred children who are challenged learners from poor families (eligible for free/reduced lunch according to federal guidelines) take home at least 3 books a year.

Reading Champions Program / VOLUNTEER MENTOR PROGRAM

**Goal: 335 Children & 100 Volunteer Tutors.
\$3,000 Rotary Contribution for Tutor Supplies**

- Piloted in Oct. 2008 at North Mianus School grades K-2 and Byram Archibald Neighborhood Center (BANC).
- Initial funding by United Way and subsequent annual funding by Greenwich Alliance for Education.
- Greenwich Alliance now only focuses on High School students.
- Currently serves 50 students in North Mianus, 33 kids in New Lebanon, 10 kids in North Street, 24 kids in Glenville, 27 kids in Dundee, 24 kids in Julian Curtis, and 34 kids at BANC.
- **MARY LENNON is our Club's Representative in the Program's Steering Committee.**
- **OPPORTUNITY FOR ROTARIANS TO VOLUNTEER TUTOR & ATTRACT FUTURE ROTARIANS FROM COMMUNITY.**

CCI (Community Center, Inc.) Summer Reading Program / BOOK DONATION

Goal: 50 Children, 1 BOOK GIFT & AWARD LUNCH, (\$500 Contribution)

- Complements the school program by making reading part of their 'no cost' summer program for children from the housing developments.
- The children now read each summer day after swimming and the staff reads with them.
- 50 children who participate and the reward is a small pizza party with parents to celebrate the work.
- The Rotary has paid for the celebration and initially, about 5 years ago, purchased some books to add to their library.
- **NIKKY MARKLEY & THELMA HOYT ATTENDED THE AWARD LUNCH AT PROGRAM'S END ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB.**

Ready Set Read / BOOK DISTRI. & INCENTIVE

Goal: 50 Families, 1 Book Distribution (\$500 Rotary Contribution for Books)
William Grasse Memorial Fund offers grant for Parent Program.

- The audience is parents of young children, primarily parents of Head Start children.
- The purpose of the program is to help young parents understand 'why' it is important to read to young children and how children learn to read.
- It is a 5-session workshop and is offered by trained parent facilitators in Spanish and English.
- We have offered this program to 3 groups of 8-10 parents each over the last 18 months and included a gift of a couple of books to the parents to compliment the program.
- The Rotary funds have supported this activity as well.

Super Reader Program / READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Goal: 4 Children, AWARD, (Rotary Lunch for Award Ceremony)

- A child from each school is selected, based on his growth in reading, to be recognized.
- The Rotary has treated the children and their parents, teacher and principal to lunch and recognized the child's achievement (Using Rotary dollars, the school makes up a certificate, frames it and there is a gift like a savings bond or a gift certificate to purchase a book).
- The child also shares something about his achievement at the lunch.]
- **NO DIRECT FUNDING. WE AWARD 4 CHILDREN AT A ROTARY LUNCH AND INVITE TEACHERS & PARENTS TO LUNCH ALSO.**

TITLE I PROGRAM

Goal: Support our Title I Schools. (\$2,000 Rotary Contribution)

- There are three Title I elementary schools in Greenwich.
 - Hamilton Avenue, New Lebanon, Julian Curtis
 - Western Middle School
- Financially challenged families and children with learning challenges define schools eligible for Title I funding (Free Lunch Program is used for Eligibility)
- In 2010, we supported NEW LEBANON SCHOOL with a technology enhancement to their existing Smart Boards. Unlike the other elementary schools in town that have the ability to raise private funds to purchase student immediate response devices that are used to gauge real-time comprehension in the classroom, we have provided the school with 1 classroom set of these enablers.

ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLIES PROJECT

Goal: 150 Book Bags & School Supply Kits. (\$7,000 Rotary Support)

- Kindergarten thru 8th Grade Students
- Students identified by Greenwich Social Services Case Workers
- All financially challenged families
- MET THE NEED of EVERY Grade-School Child that is eligible for Free-Lunch Program, all the school supplies required for their respective grade level.
- Over 250 backpacks, 638 glue sticks, 190 boxes of crayons, 385 dozen pencils, 125 sissors, 400 sets of index cards, 160 spiral notebooks, 380 packs of loose leaf paper, +400 3-ring Binders, 228 sets of divides, 200 composition books, 910 pocket folders, 200 dozen pens, 200 erasers, 261 pencil sharpeners, 194 dozen color pencils and 200 pencil boxes distributed.
- **13 Rotarians personally distributed the thousands of supplies to our 250 Title I children a week before school!**

ANNUAL DICTIONARY & THESAURUS DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

Goal: Every 3rd Grader in Greenwich Public Schools (\$3,500 Rotary Budget)

- All 3rd Graders in all Public Schools receive a dictionary & thesaurus from Rotarians.
- 750 Webster's Dictionary for Students & 750 Webster's Thesaurus for Students Distributed.
- **18 Rotarians personally distributed these books to EVERY 3rd Grader in Public Schools in town.**



Greenwich Rotary

Greenwich Title I Literacy Projects



**Report on the use of funding from Greenwich Rotary May 2011,
by Mary Ann S. Murray, M.S.W., School Social Worker**



Ready Set Read

\$500

This was a parent lead early literacy workshop for parents of young children and imbedded in the sessions included book distributions to the families receiving books related to the topics discussed. This includes beginning with books that are wordless and moving on with rhyming books, books in Spanish and read to me books. At the end of the program the families receive a gift for their child/ren that is a small backpack with books, crayons, pencils etc. This program was open but subscribed to by Head Start and Hamilton Avenue parents particularly and was offered in Spanish and English and in part paid for through a grant that did not include the book distributions. The program was offered in October and November. Twelve parents participated with 16 children. We spent \$223.00 on books. Parents rated the program highly and said it offered them a clearer understanding of 'why' it is important to read to young children. Another result of this program was that parents are encouraged to consider participating in other parenting programs such as People Empowering People and Parents Supporting Education Excellence. Three parents from the class went on to other programs.

This spring, families registering their children for kindergarten in the three Title I Schools are offered a booklet suggesting readiness activities parents can do with children and as a reward for the child, each family is offered a book as a welcome gift. Encouraging reading with children is the goal. This cost \$217.00.

Community Centers, Inc. Summer Reading

\$500

CCI asked for and books and incentives were provided for their summer program. The children participating in their summer program are almost exclusively from the three housing developments and the program is offered at no cost except for trips. \$154.00 was spent on books; \$68.00 on incentives like rewards for the reading steps along the summer and \$212.00 on the end of summer pizza party. CCI staff collaborated with reading teachers at the schools and supported the children in completing their summer reading packets that were based on the independent reading the children did during their summer days at CCI. All children who were regular participants in the CCI summer program were reported by teachers to have completed the summer expectations and came back to school and this was rewarded as it is for all children.

Reading is Fundamental

\$3,000

Again this spring the Greenwich Public Schools has received acceptance into the RIF program. This requires three book distributions to Title I children during the RIF year, which in our case is from April 2011 through March 2012. In order to be participants in RIF, the school community must have a community partner. For Greenwich, Rotary is our community partner. For the major book distribution, after ordering from a RIF catalogue from any one of the book publishers, RIF pays \$1500.00 of the book bill (this is based on a percentage formula). The Greenwich Schools are about to complete their main distribution. The Rotary funding supported a smaller distribution in October 2010 in the amount of \$372.00 to complete the expectations of our RIF contract for the previous school year. The current distribution about to take place will use \$580.00 of the Rotary funding. The next distribution will be at the end of school, again putting a book in the hands of Title I children before summer. Each of the three Title I schools (Hamilton Avenue, New Lebanon, Julian Curtiss) will have up to one third of the remaining \$953.00 for book ordering. This will deplete our Rotary funding for RIF.

Remaining funding

There will be \$276.00 remaining. One, possibly two, of the Title I schools would like to hold a "Pajama Night" in early June to meet with parents and children in kindergarten to discuss the importance of summer reading to children, participation in library summer reading programs whenever possible and offer tips on 'ingredients' to make reading with young children more successful. The school would like to give each family one book to take home and would like to use the remaining funding to purchase those books.

This summarizes the very generous Rotary funding toward improving literacy for potentially at risk children in Greenwich. It was wonderful and much appreciated. Without the Rotary support, we would not be able to hold the book distributions that put books in children's hands. Owning a book may seem to some to be a luxury while to others in our community a regular occurrence. Educators believe that it is important for children to have books in their homes and some parents are less familiar with this thinking but when community members partner with schools, this can happen. This is happening in Greenwich. Thank you, Greenwich Rotary.



Greenwich Rotary

Reading Champions Project

**Report on the use of funding from Greenwich Rotary May 2011,
by Joan Lowe, Reading Champions Director**

We just finished with 11 Reading Champions Graduations!

Please know that Reading Champions could not have worked as well as it did if it without the support we received from the Rotary Club of Greenwich. Mary Lennon is a member of our Steering Committee and attends and contributes to our monthly meetings. We cannot thank the Rotary Club enough for their support.

2010 – 2011 Reading Champions

Results: 12 Sites, 104 Volunteer Tutors, 368 Children.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Tutors</u>	<u>Children</u>
J. Curtiss CCI	6	20
J.Curtiss ESL	3	10
J. Curtiss- F*	8	24
ISD –F	8	24
Hamilton Avenue-F	9	27
North Street -F	6	18
North Street – K*	4 (4 classes/10 per class)	40
BANC	11 (3 tutors have 4 children)	37
New Leb –F	11	33
New Leb – K	1	10
Glenville –F	8	27
North Mianus – F	8	28
North Mianus – K	5 – 1class, 4 tutors & 1class, 1 tutor	24(16+8)
North Mianus – 2/3	1	8
Cos Cob	8	27
Boys & Girls Club	8	16
12 Sites	104 Tutors	368 Children

*F=Fluency *K=Kindergarten

Supporters: United Way of Greenwich and Greenwich Rotary





Greenwich Rotary Summer Campership Project



For over forty years, the Greenwich Campership program has made it possible for children from low-income Greenwich families to enjoy a memorable and fun filled experience at summer camp. Full or partial camperships are available to many local day camps, such as the YM and YWCA's, and several sleep-away camps. Camp placement depends on the family's financial situation and the special needs of the child.

At camp, children have an opportunity to meet new friends, play sports, and participate in arts and crafts in a positive and supervised environment. It has been shown over the years that a camp experience can stimulate new interests and help a child develop social skills and a more positive self image.

Senior Citizens age 55 and older can also attend camp through the Greenwich Campership program. They spend one week at The Salvation Army's Connri Lodge, in Ashford, CT. Seniors enjoy shuffleboard, swimming in a cool lake, international food festivals, and a variety of other summertime activities. Camp provides Seniors an excellent change of scenery and the opportunity to become involved in group activities and meet new people from throughout the northeast region.

Who is Eligible for a Campership?

Children ages 3-14 and Senior Citizens age 55 and older who are Greenwich residents may apply for camperships. Information regarding special needs, family income, and other significant factors will be requested and reviewed by a Department professional to determine eligibility for financial help. Referrals are accepted from school personnel, social service agencies, parents and guardians, and prospective Senior campers. A special effort is made to provide camperships for children of working parents who need to make child care arrangements during the summer months.

Transportation

The Department of Social Services provides transportation free of charge for children who receive camperships but do not have transportation to and from camp. Senior Citizens are also transported to camp free of charge.

How is the Greenwich Campership Program Funded?

The Greenwich Campership program is staffed and coordinated by the Greenwich Department of Social Services in partnership with the community. Contributions from concerned citizens, corporations, and community groups provide the scholarships for needy Greenwich children and Senior Citizens. The number of children and Senior Citizens requesting Camperships increases every year. Camp costs increase too. The average cost for two weeks at a local day camp for children is \$295; for 3 weeks, \$425. A one-week camp vacation for a Senior Citizen is \$225.

2011 Greenwich Rotary Support ~ \$10,000

Report on the use of funding from Greenwich Rotary May 2011,

The summer camp program is in full swing and predictably we have many children who are seeking help with camp. Currently we have 240 children registered for camp (as of May) and we have funding for about 200 of these kids.

Additionally, at the moment we have 25 children on our waiting list who we are hoping to find a spot for at camp and that number is sure to go up as summer approaches.

Last year the \$10,000 that we provided to our program allowed for 35 children to go to summer camp. A donation at that level would allow us to close the current gap and help meet the current need and goal of providing a camp scholarship for every child who requests one and is eligible.



Alison Brush
Community Gifts Program Coordinator
203-622-3715




GREENWICH ROTARY JRB SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Greenwich Rotary Contribution of \$10,000 to support Greenwich Juvenile Review Boards Youth Services.

Currently joining the Greenwich United Way & Greenwich Police Community Policing Division in support of GJRB.

- Greenwich Rotary active role in Youth Services & Community Service.
 - Providing Youth Intervention as an investment towards making a meaningful second-chance for youth misdemeanors.
 - Private partnership of Greenwich Rotary, United Way & Silver Shield organizations to make a difference in the Youth Community of Greenwich.
- Greenwich Rotarian, Mary Lennon is involved in the Project along with Greenwich United Way & Greenwich Police Community Division.
 - Mary Lennon is a Greenwich Psychologist & Rotarian
- This is another ongoing Community Project that the Greenwich Rotary has invested an ongoing commitment and community leadership role.
 - Greenwich Rotary Literacy Initiative / Greenwich Public Schools
 - Greenwich Rotary / Greenwich Social Services – Summer Campership Program
- All Financial & Due Diligence will be provided by the Greenwich United Way, via Youth Services Division.

 **Greenwich United Way Report on the use of funding from Greenwich Rotary May 2011,**
by Jenny Byxbee, Greenwich Youth Services Coordinator, Greenwich United Way

This year's Rotary Grant for JRB funded case management and treatment services for 15 children, including mental health assessments, the Greenwich Family Youth Options outpatient program, and counseling. Of those 15, 8 successfully completed their requirements. 1 went back to court and 6 are still active. Of the 6, they have been in treatment with the GFYO. We have had for 2010-11 over 31 JRB referrals. It costs about 1,000 per child, some little more, some less pending if they have insurance, and what type of services they need, drug testing, therapy, etc, and their ability to pay.

The Police Department receives \$0 dollars for the program, all the funds goes towards individual care, case management, counseling and needed services. What is wonderful about the Rotary Funding is that it is targeted enough that we can meet the individual needs of the children, but we also have discretion to provide services and support as they arise with case management. We also so appreciate the time and support of Mary Lennon who attends and observes sessions when she is available.

GREENWICH JUVENILE REVIEW PROGRAM

History of Greenwich JRB

Greenwich Juvenile Review Board is seeking funding to help cover the case management costs related to the program. The Greenwich Juvenile Review Board (GJRB) exists as a diversionary and preventative program to provide an alternative to juvenile court for first time offenders who have committed a minor criminal violation in Greenwich. The GJRB is composed of trained representatives from local youth serving agencies, police, schools, and the juvenile court who meet as needed. During a GJRB session, a contract with the child and family is created, which if completed to the satisfaction of the GJRB, will expunge the child's juvenile record. All requirements within a contract are based on the nature of the incident and the individual needs of the youth and family. A contract can include such components as community service hours, participating in counseling, or attending a drug rehabilitation program. If the child fails to complete his or her contract within a 3-month period, the arrest report is then sent back to Stamford Court for processing.

The focus of the GJRB is to help connect local youth who are engaging in high risk behaviors that are resulting in arrests to service providers. This was identified by the Greenwich Police Department and the United Way of Greenwich's Youth Services Council as an on-going need requiring attention from 2005 to 2008. As a result, a GJRB proposal and operating plan was developed, and community partners secured under the direction of the Greenwich Youth Services Coordinator and the Greenwich Police Department.

During the 2008-2009 school year a pilot program of the GJRB was launched and served a total of 7 youth, with 6 of those children completing their contracts including staying substance and arrest free, and 1 youth being sent back to court. Based on the GJRB pilot program's success, during the 2009 Youth Services annual Advisory Board meeting, it was adopted as a full fledged community program established for the 2009-2010 school year.

The focus of the Greenwich Juvenile Review Board is to:

1. Provide a diversion from, and meaningful alternative to, the juvenile justice system
2. Offer intervention strategies that are reasonable and community based
3. Provide an early means of identifying and assisting children who are involved in criminal or at risk behavior
4. Deter unacceptable behavior and prevent recidivism
5. Use community-based supportive and/or rehabilitative services, activities, resources and programs
6. Promote community awareness of community-based supportive and/or rehabilitative services, activities, resources and programs for children/youth and their families
7. Promote prevention efforts through the support of community-based supportive and/or rehabilitative services, activities, resources and programs designed to meet the needs of children and families and to prevent unlawful behavior
8. Strengthen the coordination and interaction of state, town and community agencies providing services to children and families

The GJRB evaluates its effectiveness based on completed contracts and the recidivism rate of its juvenile referrals.

Going forward we are anticipating even more youth who will qualify to participate in the GJRB, based on the State Of Connecticut's projection of a 50% increase in overall in juvenile arrests for the year to come. This is largely due to a new law that went into effect in 2010 that will extend the age of juveniles to include 16 year olds, which previously were referred to adult court. In addition, the Greenwich Police Department has had a total of 56 misdemeanors and 7 infractions issued in 2009, an increase from 2008. This resulted in increased referrals to the GJRB. Already within the first 6 months of this fiscal year July-December 2009, we have matched the number of GJRB intakes from last year. Moreover, the Greenwich Police Department has had increased comfort and confidence in the GJRB program and is now referring some narcotics and alcohol related offences which were not referred during the pilot year. Based on the state's estimates on juvenile arrests and Greenwich Police statistics, we can project to have as many as 50 case referrals before 2011.

Due to the current economic environment our partnering agencies for the GJRB are seeing a decrease in funding, resulting in cuts in staffing and resources. This is making it increasingly difficult for them to allocate available staff time for community programs such as the GJRB. The GRJB was established as a community partnership under the direction of the Greenwich Youth Services Coordinator/Bureau and the Greenwich Police Department, with very limited funding. During the 2008-2009 pilot year, a grant was secured by the State Department of Education for \$7,550 to help cover the costs for a Greenwich JRB coordinator for administrative duties related to the program, and for JRB case management. Unfortunately, for this fiscal year that grant was cut in half, with income for the program currently at \$3,775. In response to the increased case load and decrease in grant dollars, the GJRB has eliminated the GJRB coordinator position. These duties will now be absorbed by the Greenwich Youth Services Coordinator until additional dollars can be secured.

The GJRB relies on community collaborators in order to succeed. The operation of the GJRB is done with absorption of responsibilities into existing roles with in the community, as well as with in-kind contributions and donations for materials, supplies, and meeting space. Both the Stamford and Bridgeport their JRB's operating budgets exceed \$100,000. It is a true testimony to Greenwich's support and commitment to the program, to operate without any significant income for expenses. However with the economic environment the way it is currently, our partnering agencies are challenged to continue to absorb operating fees for the program without some compensation to help cover the costs. We are primarily seeing this in the area of case management.

RITE Program

(Reaching Independence through Employment)



Annual Report from Family Centers
Myriam Zelada, Stamford RITE Program Coordinator

RITE helps low-income individuals and families attain a greater sense of self-sufficiency through counseling, goal planning, job-skills training, life skills and family support. Services are offered in Stamford and Greenwich.

Greenwich Rotary's \$10,000 grant greatly leveraged the Program's \$220,000 budget, because it was solely used for training purposes. The Program is mature enough that it's operating budget can sustain its program, while our funds provided for incremental services that helped 148 participants in Greenwich.

Eligibility Criteria:

The RITE Program is open to all low-income residents of lower Fairfield County. In Greenwich, clients are referred by the Greenwich Housing Authority for the Family Self Sufficiency component of the program. In Stamford, clients self-refer or are referred by other agencies (or by Family Centers' internal programs).

2010-2011 RESULTS

- Total Served Stamford: 200
- Age: 0-17: 12%; 8-25: 15%; 26-44: 37%; 45-60: 29%; 60+: 7%
- Race and Ethnicity: Black: 29%; Hispanic: 42%; White: 22%; Other: 7%
- Gender: Male: 33%; Female: 67%
- Total Served Greenwich: 148
- Age: 0-17: 25%; 8-25: 9%; 26-44: 38%; 45-60: 15%; 60+: 13%
- Race and Ethnicity: Black: 15%; Hispanic: 66%; White: 13%; Other: 6%
- Gender: Male: 36%; Female: 64%
- 348 clients were provided vocational support services including Comprehensive Vocational Assessment, vocational testing, resume writing, interview skills, wrap-around case management, career development, access to vocational and educational training, job development and job retention services.
- 140 clients were provided computer literacy training.
- 96 clients were provided vocational testing.
- Completion rate for RITE Program clients receiving Vocational Assessment, resume writing, interview skills and career development was over 78%.
- Completion rate for RITE Program clients enrolled in the RITE Computer Skills Training Program was 86%. **
- Completion rate for RITE Program clients enrolled in the Annual Job Readiness Day was 100%.

348 PARTICIPANTS ARE BETTER OFF

- 80% of RITE Program clients increased their level of employment (increased hours worked, increased salary, increased benefits) and
- 80% of the 173 who were unemployed at the time of Intake became employed after receiving services through the RITE Program.
- 46% of total RITE Program clients improved their level of literacy, computer literacy and education.*
- Annual public cost savings: \$2,920,500***

* National outcome measures for Connecticut indicate that adults with the ability to learn experience improved status following participation and completion of vocational and educational training and support.

** According to Census data, individuals with a bachelor's degree earn an average of \$51,554 per year, while those receiving only a high school diploma earn \$28,645 and the average high school dropout earns \$19,169. Effective job, literacy and educational programs have been proven to contribute to positive sociological outcomes, including increased levels of employment, higher earnings, high school completion (or its equivalent), postsecondary attendance, reduced rates of reliance on public welfare assistance and involvement in criminal activities.

*** Cost of Welfare/TANF for 100 families (avg. family size: 3) ~ \$16,500 per family per year.

Greenwich Head Start



Annual Report from Family Centers Megan Sweeney, Program Director

The Greenwich Head Start Preschool offers education programs to preschool children from low-income families residing in Greenwich. The Greenwich Head Start Program promotes school readiness by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development. Children who attend Head Start participate in a variety of educational activities that support children's growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, creative arts, and physical skills. Program services include two nutritious meals per day, access to medical and dental health services, as well as mental health and disability services. Family support services include parent involvement, vocational supports, English classes, parenting education, home visits and leadership opportunities.

Greenwich Rotary Grant of \$10,000 was geared toward supporting Literacy; literacy development & book giveaways for the children and ESL education for parents. Greenwich Head Start is the predominant program in the Town of Greenwich that addresses early childhood literacy development; a critical factor that contributes to the Literacy Gap later on in secondary education and beyond.

Eligibility:

All participants are low income Greenwich families with preschool age children, living at or near the Federal Poverty level.

2010-2011

- Head Start served 37 families, representing 127 individuals (43 students and 84 family members)
- Age: 0-17: 58%; 8-25:5%; 26-44: 33%; 45-60: 4%;
- Race and Ethnicity: Black: 23%; Hispanic: 69%; White: 3%; Other: 5%
- Gender: Male: 43%; Female: 57%
- All 43 children enrolled in the Greenwich Head Start program were assessed for vision, hearing, BMI (Body Mass Index), social emotional and developmental concerns.
- 20 parent meetings were held and ESL classes (English as a Second Language) were offered twice weekly from September through June.
- All 37 families participated in at least one literacy activity including library visits, obtaining library cards, and book giveaways.
- Greenwich Head Start collaborated with several literacy programs including the Greenwich Alliance for Education, Greenwich Library, Friends of Greenwich Library and the Parent Child Home Partnership.
- Each Head Start staff participated in a minimum of 7 staff development days equaling 35 hours or more.

127 CHILDREN / 37 FAMILIES ARE BETTER OFF

- Any child who was identified as having an issue was referred for further follow up.
 - 3 children identified a medical home for continuous medical care,
 - 2 children received treatment for asthma,
 - 4 children received needed dental treatment,
 - 2 children were referred for ongoing mental health treatment ,
 - 1 child received special education services and
 - 5 children were provided nutritional guidance for childhood obesity
- Gains were made for all 43 children enrolled in the program in the areas of language development, cognitive development, socio-emotional development and motor development. Progress is measured, recorded and reported three times a year.
- Twenty six children moved on to Kindergarten with developmental portfolios documenting their individual progress at Head Start.

There was an average attendance of 13 (38% of parents) at Parent meetings (Studies show that children with more involved parents scored higher on emergent literacy and math tasks, and also had more positive social behavior than children whose parents were less involved).

Many thanks to the Rotarians that have helped on this Initiative....

Linda Baulsir, Jim Boardman, Rick Buddenhagen, Roy Cary, Jim Dean, Steve DeLuca, Diane Fox, Warren Greene, Russ Harden, Thelma Hoyt, Laura Hughes, Charlie Jensen Jr, Mary Lennon, John Linnartz, Nicki Markley, Bill Miles, Gary Miller, Mary Ann Morrison, Pete Orszulak, Sarah Papsun, Sarah, Sally Parris, Leah Reeves, Mike Rosa, Bill Sawyer, Heather Smeriglio, Marie Stacy, Len Szczesny, Josephina van der Poll, Jim Vivier, and Jeff Weber.

Greenwich Time

Monday, October 4, 2010



The Greenwich Rotary Club joins the funders of the Greenwich United Way "Reading Champions" as it begins its fourth year of volunteer tutoring in Greenwich elementary school and at after school centers. From left: Greenwich Rotarians Thelma Hoyt; Josefina Van Der Pol; Joan Lowe, Reading Champions coordinator; John Jee; Jenny Byxbee, Greenwich Youth Services coordinator; and Mary Lennon. Applications to become a Reading Champions tutor are available by emailing Bxybee at jbyxbee@unitedway-greenwich.com or calling 203-869-2221 or Lowe at joanlowe18@gmail.com - or calling 203-344-1028. Photo: File Photo / Greenwich Time File Photo

Local Elementary Schoolers Graduate from Program

Jay Polansky, Staff Correspondent

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Julie Gibian, left, a tutor in the "Reading Champions" program gives a reading medal to her student, James Sosa, 7, of Greenwich for his reading accomplishments in the program, during a ceremony at the Byram Archibald Neighborhood Center, Wednesday afternoon, June 9, 2010. Photo: Bob Luckey / Greenwich Time |

They are among the youngest graduates in town this season. A handful of elementary school students received diplomas from a Reading Champions program Wednesday afternoon at Byram's Archibald Center.

Amid a roomful of applause, tutors called each student to a table in the front of the room. They awarded each student a diploma, a book to read over the summer and a medal. In return, each student handed a flower to his or her teacher, supplied by the organization.

Many of the program's students smiled, as the tutors placed the medal upon them. "I feel really happy 'cause it's my first time getting a medal," Natalie Gamez, 8, a third-grader at New Lebanon said. "It's really great."

Michelle Garay, 9, whose sister Jesika is also in the program, said that she gained an appreciation of reading from the program. "Reading is good and fun if you like (the) book," Garay said. She particularly enjoys reading fiction books because she sometimes finds them to be humorous.

Many parents applauded as their students received their awards. "I feel so happy," Marlene Acevedo, parent of Emily, 6, a New Lebanon first-grade student. "My daughter was shy in the beginning, but now she can read aloud."

The program, which is funded by the United Way and the Greenwich Alliance for Education, works with students in the Greenwich Public Schools to improve reading and homework skills. "It's a community collaboration," Jenny Byxbee, Greenwich United Way's youth coordinator said. "The best I've ever seen."

North Mianus School hosted the pilot program three years ago with seven tutors and 20 students. It has since grown to serve more than 300 students in nine locations. The program runs during the school day at some locations and after school at others. The Archibald program is one of the afterschool programs, according to Byxbee.

Joan Lowe, a retired Greenwich High School teacher, guidance counselor and social worker, founded the program. She said that she created it after volunteering at Reading Partners, a similar concept in Stamford.

"I said 'this is such a good program, it ought to be in Greenwich.'" Each week students work with tutors in 20- to 25-minute sessions. They focus on reading comprehension, volunteer Julie Gibian said. Gibian tutored James Sosa, 7, a second-grader at New Lebanon School. She said that James is an enthusiastic student. "He loves math and is willing to learn," Gibian said. "He's usually the last one because he likes to stay as long as he can." James described the ceremony as a life-changing event. "I feel like a new guy, a reader."

greenwich
time.com

Lisa Chamoff, Staff Writer

Published: Thursday, August 26, 2010



Rotarian-in-training Jack Jee, 8, who is entering the third grade at North Street Elementary School in Greenwich, makes sure the bookbags are in order before clients arrive at Greenwich Town Hall. The Rotary Club of Greenwich distributed \$6,000 worth of school supplies to needy families through the Department of Social Services on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010. (Left) Photo: Amy Mortensen / Connecticut Post Freelance



Bookbags with a supply checklist, grouped by grade, are lined up at Greenwich Town Hall on Thursday August 26, 2010. The Rotary Club of Greenwich distributed \$6,000 worth of school supplies to needy families through the Department of Social Services. (Above) Photo: Amy Mortensen / Connecticut Post Freelance

Samantha Castaneda and her brother John, who will be entering the third and second grade at Julian Curtis Elementary School respectively, select bookbags at Greenwich Town Hall. The Rotary Club of Greenwich distributed \$6,000 worth of school supplies to needy families through the Department of Social Services on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010. (Above) Photo: Amy Mortensen / Connecticut Post Freelance

At Greenwich Town Hall, rotarian Mary Lennon assists C.J. Rivera in selecting a bookbag for the first day of 7th grade at Central Middle School in Greenwich. The Rotary Club of Greenwich distributed \$6,000 worth of school supplies to needy families through the Department of Social Services on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010. (Right)Photo: Amy Mortensen / Connecticut Post Freelance



Rotary Club helps town kids go back to school

Lisa Chamoff, Staff Writer

Published: Thursday, August 26, 2010

Shopping for school supplies is usually not an easy task, but in about five minutes on Thursday afternoon, [Kelly Pradia](#) got everything her two boys needed to start off the year.

Pradia stopped by Town Hall and picked up gray and blue backpacks for her sons, 6-year-old Tyler and 12-year-old [Eric Manning](#). The usually expensive tools were all free, through a program organized by the Rotary Club of Greenwich.

"There's other things I need to do to get ready for the school year," said Pradia, a single mother, who appreciated the help.

More than 200 backpacks of various colors and sizes filled with notebooks, pens, crayons and glue took over a conference room on the third floor of Town Hall. This was the second year that the Rotary Club donated school supplies to Greenwich families in need.

John Jee, a Rotary Club member who organized the project, said the [Greenwich organization](#) does a lot of work overseas, including helping hospitals in Peru.

"This is something that we really started pushing a year ago," Jee said. "This is right at home."

Caseworkers from the [Greenwich Department of Social Services](#) identified children who needed help, and sent letters to families asking them to register for the program. More than 200 kids were placed on a list, and parents were asked to come by during two sessions on Thursday.

Club members obtained school supplies lists for kindergarten through eighth grade from [Cos Cob School](#) and [Western Middle School](#), and made trips to Staples and Target, purchasing 1,000 notebooks, 950 folders, 400 packages of pencils.

Alison Brush, community gifts coordinator for the social services department, said due to the Rotary Club's limited funds, they couldn't help every family, but they did reach dozens more children than last year.

"The need is always going to be high, especially now in the last couple of years," said Brush, who also helps collect donations for the town's summer camp scholarship program.

Department of Social Services employees worked on Tuesday and Wednesday stuffing backpacks. The distribution process was fairly orderly, with Rotary Club volunteers, as well as Jee's son, 8-year-old Jack, guiding families to backpacks set out by grade and letting them pick up the bag of their choice.

Micah Bueno was the only child who left disappointed. The 3-year-old tried to walk off with a large yellow backpack meant for a sixth-grader, and cried out when his father, Addy Bueno, took it away.

Bueno also brought 6-year-old Aden, who will be entering first grade at [New Lebanon School](#).



Greenwich Rotary In-Action 2010 School Supplies Project



All Photos on this page by Greenwich Rotary

CCI Summer Reading Program

This CCI Program complements the public school program by making reading part of their 'no cost' summer program for children from the housing developments. The children now read each summer day after swimming and the staff reads with them. About 50 children who participate celebrate their achievement with a small pizza party with parents to celebrate their work. The Greenwich Rotary has supported the program over 5 years ago with books to add to their library, and this year we also supported their End-of-Summer pizza party. **Nicki Markley and Thelma Hoyt represented the Greenwich Rotary at this year's celebration.**



This year's children show off their Certificates of Achievement for the CCI Summer Reading Program to Rotarians Nicki Markley & Thelma Hoyt (Top left). The top boy & girl readers pose with a CCI counselor (top right). Photos by Nicki Markley.



Photos by Nicki Markley.

Community Centers Inc. (CCI) is a non-profit social service agency working with those who might otherwise be left out of community life.

The purpose of Community Centers, Inc. (CCI) is to promote the personal and social potential of the members of the Greenwich community who are economically marginalized, have special needs or are isolated from the mainstream. CCI offers a combination of educational and therapeutic recreational programs, individual, family, group counseling, and advocacy. It's effectiveness lies its responsiveness to the needs of its clients.

For more than fifty years, CCI has been serving the Greenwich Community.



We serve all ages, many racial and ethnic groups and residents with a wide variety of special needs. The majority of those we serve live in subsidized public housing most in single-parent homes. Many have emotional or physical handicaps. These are people who live on the margins at the best of times.

Our programs provide the kind of help that enables our clients to help themselves. Our work is challenging. Our clients face difficult odds. Please become a part of what CCI is all about.

Kathy Stillson, LCSW
Executive Director

What We Do

CCI's mission is to ensure that everyone in Greenwich no matter their economic situation has a chance to take advantage of the town's excellent education system, arts programs and other enriching experiences.

CCI provides homework clubs, tutoring, and both after-school and summer enrichment programs for kids, therapeutic counseling and supportive social groups for teens, seniors, mentally-challenged adults and families in crisis.

CCI provides itself on being able to perceive and quickly develop programs to address new needs in the community it serves.

CCI has minimal fees for the programs. It receives United Way funding and support from foundations and individual donors.

CCI's a place where clients are always assured a welcome. Programs are also held in clients' homes, in schools, on field trips and even in the court room, as we advocate for those who have no one else to speak for them.

Greenwich Time

Tuesday, November 23, 2010



The Greenwich Rotary Club recently awarded Family Centers a \$20,000 grant to ensure children receive the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and adults have access to quality vocational training services. The Rotary Club earmarked \$10,000 for the Greenwich Head Start Preschool and \$10,000 for the Reaching Independence Through Employment program. In total, the Greenwich Rotary Club has committed over \$50,000 to literacy initiatives in the Greenwich community this year. Photo: Contributed Photo / Greenwich Time Contributed

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Reaching
Independence
Through
Employment



Donations pour in for camp program

Lisa Chamoff, Staff Writer

Published 06:45 p.m., Monday, July 5, 2010

Up until a few weeks ago, the forecast was uncertain for dozens of families seeking support to send their children to camp, but a town program has received enough money to ensure the kids will have fun in the sun.

The Department of [Social Services](#) earlier this year registered 240 children for its Campership Program, which sends children from low-income families to summer camp.

At the start of June, the department only had enough money to send 185 children to several day camps in town and two overnight camps in other parts of the state.

Since then, several large donations have come in, giving the department about \$95,000, enough to fund camp scholarship for all the registered families, plus about a dozen children that had been placed on a waiting list.

The department also will be able to cover second camp sessions for some families who need child care, said [Alison Brush](#), community gifts coordinator for the department.

"I was pleasantly surprised, especially given the struggle we had last year," Brush said.

Last year, about \$83,800 in scholarships was provided through the program, while \$98,000 in scholarships was provided in 2008.

It costs about \$320 to send a child to camp for two weeks, and \$475 for a three-week program.

To qualify for the Campership program, income must be \$38,588 or less a year for a family of four.

Since the department put out a call for more money, donations came in from several community groups and private foundations.

A recent \$10,000 donation from the [Rotary Club of Greenwich](#) -- \$5,000 came from the club, which was matched by an anonymous private fund -- put the Campership program over the top.

The Rotary Club of Greenwich has funded camp scholarships in the past, said [Mary Ann Morrison](#), the group's president.

"It was a dire need," said Morrison, who is also president and chief executive officer of the [Greenwich Chamber of Commerce](#). "Some of the parents we know work all summer. We know we will be helping many children with this contribution."

For more information on the [Greenwich Department](#) of Social Services Campership Program, call 203-622-3715.