

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Richfield Rotary Donates \$3800 Worth of Books to Local Schools

Local community grant project provides Spanish-English visual dictionaries and culturally relevant books to Richfield elementary schools

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Through a community grant-funded project, the Rotary Club of Richfield is donating \$3,800 worth of books to Richfield Public elementary schools, Partnership Academy and Blessed Trinity Catholic School. Donated books include Spanish-English visual dictionaries and books that are culturally relevant to the schools' growing number of Latino students. They will be delivered to schools in April and placed in school libraries, classrooms and English Language Learner resource rooms as determined by each school.

The project was funded by the Richfield Rotary Foundation, supplemented by a local community project grant from Rotary District 5950. The book donation is an outgrowth of Richfield Rotary's longstanding Dictionary Project, which has provided 3rd graders in all Richfield public, parochial, and home schools with an individual student dictionary in English each year since 2006.

Last fall, Richfield Rotary asked elementary teachers and principals to provide feedback on its Dictionary Project. Barbara Devlin, Richfield Rotary president, observed, "Elementary principals and teachers would still like to receive individual student dictionaries in English. However, with a growing number of students whose first language is Spanish, they would like additional literacy supports for Latino students."

Lisa Hendricks, Executive Director of Partnership Academy, wrote, "We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Richfield Rotary to ensure our students have access to books and resources that are culturally relevant to their lives."

Theresa Bechtold, Chair of the Partnership Academy Board of Education, added, "These books and dictionaries will especially help our community as PA implements distance learning for our students. Now more than ever our students (and homeschooling parents) will benefit from your generosity."

Patrick O'Keefe, Principal, Blessed Trinity Catholic School, wrote, "We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group working on behalf of our Richfield community."

Principals in Richfield Public elementary schools expressed their appreciation as well. Marta Shahsavand, Principal of Richfield Dual Language School, stated, "Thank you for this important project." Nancy Stachel, Principal, Sheridan Hills Elementary School, added, "This is fabulous news! Thank you for all that you do for our schools." Amy Winter, Principal, of Richfield STEM School, stated, "I am excited to see all the resources."

For more information: <https://youtu.be/IHS9Qb-eYQG>, <https://www.richfieldrotary.org/>