



We are in the 14th year of the Dictionary Project .Your financial support of our Dictionary Project makes it work. . We will be distributing a beautiful, soft back dictionary to every third grader in Rochester-- more than 1,600 third graders! For those of you who are new to Greater Rochester Rotary, and to those of you who are veterans, here is a summary of the project and how we do it.

Literacy has long been a focus of Rotary. We know that reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success; that some states use 3rd and 4th grade literacy statistics to determine future prison bed needs; and that the number of books in a home is also a predictor of the literacy of its occupants.

Rochester is no stranger to literacy issues, and in 2008, we began this project to improve our community. In December, (we hope) two of us visit each 3rd grade classroom to describe Rotary, to deliver the dictionaries and to lead an exercise to familiarize the students with their book. The students use the dictionaries at school and home to use as a resource. They learn that there are adults (other than their teachers and parents) who care about their success. In this stage of development, third graders value ownership and are just learning dictionary skills.

We are encouraged by the smiles and thank notes of students and teachers. Let us hope we can return to doing in-person presentations of the dictionary this year.

Denise Kelly
Dictionary Team Leader

