**Rotary International District 5550**

**2021 – 2022 Literacy Report**

Submitted by Lucille Ayers & Candace Odishaw, Co-Chairs, District 5550 Literacy Committee

District 5550 continues to be a district interested in promoting literacy in our communities and around the world. 27 of 45 clubs reported on their initiatives for 2021 – 2022 and 23 of these clubs have earned District Literacy Award Certificates.

Due to challenges organizing events during another Covid year, our Literacy Committee has recognized clubs that completed at least five literacy activities with a District Literacy Award Certificate. In addition, we gave special recognition to two clubs for their initiative and creativity in organizing important literacy projects or fundraisers during this challenging year.

This report is a summary of all the great work our District 5550 clubs have accomplished this year to support literacy and is an excellent resource for any club considering becoming involved in new or different projects and programs.

|  |
| --- |
| District Literacy Award Certificates 2021 – 2022 |

Dryden Brandon Saskatoon Meewasin

Kenora Brandon Sunset Saskatoon Nutana

Winnipeg Assiniboine Gimli Saskatoon Riverside

Winnipeg Downtown Hudson Bay Regina

Winnipeg Charleswood Melfort Regina Eastview

Winnipeg St. Boniface/St. Vital Nipawin Passport Regina Oskaya

Minnedosa Saskatoon Moose Jaw Wakamow

Neepawa Saskatoon North

|  |
| --- |
| Stepping Up for Literacy During Covid (Special Recognition) |

Rotary Club of Regina

Rotary Club of Saskatoon Riverside

**ONTARIO**

**Rotary Club of Dryden**

President **Patty Vann** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Donated $11,000 in scholarships and bursaries to Dryden High School, Red Lake High School and Ignace High School.
* Offered $2,500 in RYLA scholarships to attend camp either in-person or via Zoom.
* $2,600 has been earmarked to send two students to Adventures in Human Rights.
* $790 has been earmarked to send two students to participate in Adventures in Citizenship via Zoom.
* $225 has been allotted to sponsor students to participate in MUNA, but DHS has declined to send students this year.
* Sponsored the Free Reading Program, which is geared to students in grades K-6, on our club’s website and promoted it by distributing free bookmarks at Fall Fest’s Treats and Trees Walk, a community event held in October.
* A DHS student was chosen to send on a Long Term Exchange, but due to the cancellation of the program for 2022/23 the student will not be attending. The student will still receive a $1,000 bursary.
* Two club members serve on the Dryden Public Library Board.
* One club member is the Chief Librarian/CEO of the DPL.
* One club member chairs the Friends of the DPL.
* Three of the above mentioned club members are members of the DPL Strategic Planning Committee.
* One club member serves on the District 5550 Literacy Committee.
* Considering sponsorship of the *Dolly Parton Imagination Library* in May.
* In partnership with the Dryden Public Library and the Friends of the DPL we presently stock and maintain two ‘*Books for Sharing’* boxes in our community. We will be installing a third this spring.
* 20 Rotary branded *Britannica Kids’ Encyclopedia* have been purchased for distribution to public and school libraries in our area.
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect program in support of schools in Guatemala.
* Led Amarok’s Second Annual Christmas Promotion that raised $18,000 from clubs across Canada and was matched for a total of $36,000. Money raised supports 4 ½ Amarok schools in Bangladesh – basic education for 113 mothers to teach 563 children for one year. RC of Dryden sponsors the Durbar-Shaikat Mothers School.
* Promoted the Free Reading Program on Face Book for Family Literacy Day in January and challenged our members to share the post with family and friends.
* Susan Reany Iskra and Lucille Ayers were guest speakers at a meeting in September where they outlined our club’s literacy projects and highlighted our partnership with the Friends of the Dryden Public Library.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Kenora**

President **Sheelagh Reid** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered youth academic scholarships. The club awarded two grants of $1,000 to graduating students. The club pays $1,000 and we received a grant for $1,000.
* The club offered RYLA scholarships.
* The club sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
* The club sponsors an Interact Club at a local high school. Rotarians meet with students monthly and have participated in join projects.
* Interact Club member Sarah Chosen is leading an Interact Club fundraiser selling tea from the Spirit Oak Store for the Ripple Effect Program. Funds raised will be used to sponsor a Middle School student in Guatemala.
* Gord Lemaistre attended Rotary Club of Kenora’s Interact Club meeting at St. Thomas Aquinas High School on December 10th and was presented with a cheque for $165 for the Ripple Effect Program Scholarship fund.
* Within the community the club donated $500 to Kenora’s Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
* Within the community the club donates to breakfast programs at all schools in the community.
* Within the community the club implemented a Christmas Book Drive to acquire an additional supply of children’s books for Rotary’s four Little Libraries.
* Within the community the club facilitates the Nutrition on Weekends (N.O.W.) program in partnership with the Northwestern Health Unit and local schools, providing bags of nutritious food for the weekend for disadvantaged children.
* Nutrition on Weekends (NOW) Kenora has been rolled out for the third full school year and packs an average of 215 bags per week. All schools in Kenora are participating.
* The club’s Book Club meets every six to eight weeks.
* Within the community the club has partnered with Special Olympics again this year for our Lucky Duck fundraiser.
* Within the community the club supported a computer literacy program.
* Internationally the club donated $4,465 to the Ripple Effect program.
* Internationally there are three club members on the D5550’s Ripple Effect Committee.
* Internationally the club provided $1,570 for scholarships for four students in Mexico who are entering high school (Becas Program). Students are doing studies online during the pandemic.
* Internationally $300 was donated to the Amarok Society to educate mothers in Bangladesh.
* Internationally The Ripple Effect Program is moving forward with a plan to equip one of the new classrooms as Caserio Colpech School, Chicol Village, Santa Barbara Municipality, with desks and computers.
* RC of Kenora Global Grant #2098204 for Simple School was approved December 14th, 2020 and construction started March 1 at Colpech School to build two classrooms, library and washrooms and health and hygiene training. Status: Completed on February 11, 2022.
* Global Grant #2120729: The Rotary Club of Gualun and the Rotary Club of Burlington Lakeshore GG was approved November 8th in the amount of $76,939.00 US to provide bathrooms and wash stations, septic system and clean water to the Hernando Beltran primary school that will benefit 650 children and 31 teachers and parents in Los Limones, Guatemala. The Rotary Club of Kenora has invested $1,659 US and D5550 $900 US in this Global Grant. Status: Construction started slowly in December and is now in full swing since the club received the funds in the GG bank account.
* The club recognized International Literacy Day in September. The three speakers scheduled for Rotary Literacy month in September 2021 were Ryan Stelter, editor at the Kenora Miner and News, Tracy Lindstrom, vice-principal of Beaver Brae Secondary School who spoke about destreaming in the education system and Carolyn Hudson, who presented a fascinating video by John Trischitti entitled “Literacy is the Answer”.
* The club organized a Special Project this year. On behalf of the Rotary Club of Kenora, the Literacy Committee presented a total of 500 biodegradable bookmarks to the Public Libraries in Kenora and Keewatin, to two secondary schools and to Kiizhik Gakendaasowin, an Anishinaabe immersion school in Kenora. The bookmarks provided information about Rotary in general as well as Rotary Club of Kenora projects.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**MANITOBA**

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Charleswood**

President **Douglas McKenzie** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Awarded $1,000 to each of the three high schools in the community for students registered for post-secondary education.
* Sponsored one student that has registered for RYLA.
* Sponsored two student/one team to participate in MUNA. Board has agreed to sponsor four teams in total.
* One club member is on the Board of Bookmates.
* 18 books have been donated to date to the Westgrove School library by Nancy Hansen on behalf of the club. Nancy has been compiling and delivering a collection of children’s and young adult books related to informing youth about disabled people’s rights acquisition worldwide.
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* Recognized International Literacy Day in September and/or Family Literacy Day in January and/or Rotary literacy month in September.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg- St. Boniface/St. Vital**

President **Pat LeBlanc** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Offered youth academic scholarships.
* Sponsor two students to each of the junior and senior RYLA online camps.
* Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Human Rights.
* Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Citizenship.
* Sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
* Working with members to try and get involved again with the Long-term and/or Short-term Rotary Youth Exchange program.
* Support a Teen Stop Jeunesse in their programs for youth.
* Engage in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, gifts-in-kind, scholarships, extra tutoring, or other needs as identified by the school.
* Participation by club members on a literacy or library board.
* Work with and attend meetings with the Interact Club at Glennlawn Collegiate.
* Support the Adult Education Program that includes full credit courses allowing students 19+ to go on to higher education.
* Support the Leadership Program that includes summer continued learning/mentorship as well as leadership training.
* Continue to support the Ripple Effect program, building and equipping schools in Guatemala.
* Provide scholarships to the Guatamala Literacy Project.
* Partner with the Club Rotario PVR Sur AC in performing eye surgery for children in Mexico.
* Provide scholarships to both the Adult Education Centre and high schools in our area - $1,000 X 4. Matching grant from the District obtained for one of these.
* Devoted a club meeting to creating awareness of Literacy project opportunities.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Downtown**

President **Nancy Cosway** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Offered RYLA scholarships to two students.
* Sponsored one student to participate in Adventures in Citizenship.
* Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Human Rights. Club member is the Chair of planning and implementation for Adventures in Human Rights.
* Sponsored students to participate in MUNA. Club member is the Chair of MUNA.
* Donated books to 10 Northern Remote Communities in Northern Manitoba in partnership with *Share the Magic* that collected and donated over 9,000 books so that the children and families could have their own reading materials at home.
* Sent 1,500 books to one community for their new school library.
* Sent magazines, dictionaries and encyclopedias to another community.
* Sent 81 refurbished laptops to three communities.
* In partnership with Frontier College offered summer literacy programs in two communities.
* Raised money for an international literacy program – education of Rohingya women and girls in refugee camps in Bangladesh, currently raising funds for a literacy project in the DRC, sponsored two Sudanese students in Kenya for secondary school.
* Applied for and received a Global Grant to support the education of Rohingya women and girls in refugee camps in Bangladesh.
* Recognized Rotary Literacy Month in September – September 1 speaker Dr. John Weins, Role of Education on Poverty; September 15 presentation by student who attended Adventures in Citizenship.
* Collected books suitable for Indigenous communities in partnership with Indigo “Rez Reads” and shipped to northern communities.
* In collaboration with Frontier College sent fun learning packages to five communities when they were in COVID lockdown.
* In partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg provided Chromebooks to scores of Indigenous and immigrant families in inner city Winnipeg so they could participate in virtual learning during COVID.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Assiniboine**

President **Steve Coppinger** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Offered four youth academic scholarships for a total of $21,000.
* Offered a RYLA scholarship for one student.
* Sponsored one student to participate in Adventures in Human Rights.
* Sponsored one student to participate in Adventures in Citizenship.
* Sponsored two students to participate in MUNA.
* Donated to the Literacy Links program with the St. James Assiniboia School Division.
* Collected and distributed school supplies to a community organization in the core area of the city, Spence Neighbourhood Association.
* Provided funds to an inner city mission to purchase and distribute workbooks appropriate to the public school primary level.
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* RC of Winnipeg-Assiniboine administers the Ripple Effect scholarship program.
* Applied for a District Grant for literacy.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg West**

Mary Switek, on behalf of President **Mildred Turner,** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy project:

* Supported a funding request for $5,000 from Cecil Rhodes School, an inner city primary school in Winnipeg, to purchase culturally relevant reading materials for students in grades K to 3. A large percentage of the students at the school are from new Canadian or Indigenous families and the programmed reading materials on hand were not relevant to their day-to-day experiences and did not encourage them to read. Appropriate materials were found to be available in Toronto, were purchased by the school with our club’s grant, and have been well received by the students.

**Rotary Club of Dauphin**

President **Mark Kohan** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered two youth academic scholarships, one to a first year student and one to a second year student.
* The club offered a youth music scholarship.
* Annually the club applies for a District Grant for our annual scholarship program.
* The club runs a very successful book sale that reaches out to the community and to the local schools. Covid protocols have lessened the frequency but the club continues to provide as many events as they can.

 **Rotary Club of Neepewa**

President **Wayne Jacobsen** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered youth academic scholarships.
* Within the community the club donated to a literacy program.
* Within the community the club sponsored or participated in a literacy program.
* Within the community the club participated in a public library program. Although the club’s weekly reading program at the community library has been cancelled due to COVID restrictions, plans have been initiated to recommence this engagement as the public health criteria allow (post March 15th in Manitoba).
* Within the community the club engages in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, gifts-in-kind, extra tutoring, etc.
* Within the community the club has set up “Little Free Libraries” in our community. The club has three community Libraries that have been restocked with books appropriate for children, teens and adults.
* A teacher member who participated in the Teacher VTT team to Guatemala continues to be invited to clubs to speak about the experience of sharing educational ideas with the teachers and the positive acceptance.
* Within the community the club has assisted school group H.O.P.E. with an annual food drive to provide to the local food bank so that families can provide nutrition to their families.
* Within the community the club has donated to the community owned Roxy Theatre where local schools can do live performances, learning how to perform. Roxy also provides only general movies for families.
* Within the community the club provides funding to ArtsForward. The community facility provides space for children’s music and arts programs as well as hosting adult programs such as ladies’ choir and art programs with the gallery to exhibit. The club also provides volunteers to assist with the ArtsForward annual craft sale.
* Within the community the club provided funding to assist the Margaret Lawrence Home which maintains the original home of Margaret Lawrence and provides a venue to study the history of the author, who was born in Neepawa.
* Within the community the club provided a freezer to the new Middle School to store food products for school events.
* Within the community the club partnered with Stride Credit Union and the Neepawa Bird Sanctuary to provide $1,500 so that children, teens and adults can go and see various species of birds and learn about their habits.
* Within the community the club organized a fundraiser for literacy. The club held its annual book sale and sold children’s books at a low cost so that parents could purchase as many as they wished. Great to see families coming and choosing books! This sale provides for recycling of books to new readers rather than being destroyed.
* Internationally the club donated $1,950 for the Ripple Effect program.
* The club applied for a District grant for literacy for a scholarship to assist a student to continue education.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Minnedosa**

President **Roberta Galbraith** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Within the community the club participated in a literacy program and donated to a public library. Children’s books were donated to the local elementary school as well as the local library. The club chose books recommended in the Rotary Magazine in the fall of 2021.
* One club member initiated a project in 2020-21 that the club has continued this year. Pre-Kindergarten children, those entering Grade 1 in September 2022, are each given one story book and two workbooks with activities to help them prepare for school. This was readily accepted by the teachers.
* Within the community books were purchased through the local library as well as Scholastic Books through the Minnedosa Child Care Cooperative. This way, the Child Care group benefited by the points earned and were able to purchase extra books themselves.
* Within the community the club holds an annual book sale in which all children are able to choose one free book. Some of the proceeds from the sale were used to purchase these books.
* Within the community the club has just approved a new project to put five “Little Free Libraries” in the community. These libraries will be set up with full approval of our Librarian and with cooperation from five local residents to have one in their yards.
* In Manitoba I Love to Read Month is February, so the club announced their book donations and new Little Libraries project with the local newspapers and on social media.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of The Pas**

President **Julia McKay** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy projects:

* Offered youth academic scholarships.
* Provided funding to an Early Years School so they could provide a pre-school literacy program to pre-school children and their families.

**Rotary Club of Brandon**

President **Alan Moulin** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered youth academic scholarships.
* The club offered RYLA scholarships.
* The club sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
* The club donated to a literacy program, providing books for “Little Free Libraries” by encouraging community members to distribute books from our inventory to these libraries.
* The club set up “Little Free Libraries” in their community.
* The club participated in a public library program by recycling books donated by regional libraries in Western Manitoba.
* The club sponsored or participated in a literacy program, continuing to support a reading program with inmates at Brandon Correctional Institute. Many inmates are from rural and remote areas of Manitoba and there is a real loss of contact with family due to incarceration. Our club provides children’s story books which are read by the inmate to their child and recorded at the Brandon Correctional Institute. The book and the recording of the parent is sent to the child in the home community and the child can read the book along with the parent’s voice. The parent is allowed to provide a message to their child as well. This program includes both male and female inmates and this tape recording might be the only time a child hears their parent’s voice during incarceration, which could be almost two years. This unique program provides hope for both parent and child during a very difficult time. Our club feels strongly that this program benefits families under extreme stress, supports child literacy and **is beneficial to all concerned**.
* The club donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* The club also continued to distribute books free of charge to various community groups as part of our book sale activities. Books continue to be distributed in conjunction with the sale; for example, the club donates one free book to each child that attends our book sales in April and September.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Brandon Sunset**

President **Whitney Seib** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club donated to a literacy program, providing a bursary for the Festival of the Arts in Brandon.
* The club sponsored or participated in a literacy program, donating books to an inner-city school for children with disabilities.
* The club donated books obtained at the Brandon Book Sale to the Children of Inmates Reading Program.
* Club members participated in a literacy project other than club sponsored, volunteering time to assist with another club’s Book Sale.
* The club engaged in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, gifts-in-kind, extra tutoring etc. They donated a book to an inner-city school for their classroom libraries.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Gimli**

President **Donna Krebs** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered youth academic scholarships: four scholarships were awarded to local students who wish to attend university.
* The club offered RYLA scholarships, but unfortunately had no response by any applicants this year so none were awarded.
* The club contributes to a nutrition program at four schools to ensure no child goes hungry and can concentrate on learning.
* The club donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* The club applied for a District Grant for literacy.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**SASKATCHEWAN**

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon**

President **Mark Gryba** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered two youth academic scholarship to Sask Polytechnic.
* The club donates to a literacy program – RAP
* The club is heavily involved in RAP (Restorative Action Program) which runs in 9 Saskatoon high schools and works to keep at-risk students in school and out of the criminal justice system; supported with club and personal donations from members; several members sit on the board of directors for the program (including chair and treasurer positions).
* The club sponsored or participated in a literacy program – RAP and Bishop James Mahoney High School.
* The club engages in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, etc. (both RAP and Bishop James Mahoney High School).
* The club was working with Bishop James Mahoney High School to conduct a Leadership Seminar in January, however with the new wave of Covid infections, the event was cancelled.
* Internationally the club donates to Hope for Malawi Project – donated towards an agriculture education program in the school that the club helped build in these communities.
* Internationally the club has donated to the Becas Scholarship Program which sponsors over 100 middle and high school students in the Puerto Vallarta, Mexico area. The club also sent used laptop computers to this program to support their computer education.
* Internationally the club donates to Joy’s Center in Uganda which has built a school for the orphanage and this year the club is helping to fund the purchase of a corn mill to help feed the students at the orphanage and school. Providing a meal at the school is a huge incentive for the children to keep attending school.
* Internationally the club is funding a lunch program at Janachetana Primary School is Siribari, Nepal which has helped to raise attendance significantly. As part of this program, the club is funding a teacher’s salary at the same school.
* Internationally the club is also helping fund a water purification system for this school in Nepal.
* This club has applied for a District Grant for literacy for the Nepal Literacy Program to help pay for the teacher’s salary they are funding.
* The club recognized International Literacy Day in September by having a speaker to the club give a presentation on the “Freedom Writers” program.
* The club has partnered this year with “Hope Restored Saskatoon”, an organization which works to eradicate sex trafficking and abuse by getting young girls (13-15 years of age) off the street and into a safe shelter. The club is sponsoring an incentive program which rewards the girls for staying in school and maintaining good grades.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana**

President **Mike Gramiak** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club donated $1,000 to youth scholarships at Oskayak High School for furthering education.
* The club will be sponsoring 2 RYLA scholarships.
* The club donated $1,000 to Rotary Restorative Action Program (RAP).
* One of the club members, Lorne Braithwaite, sits on the board of RAP.
* The club makes a donation to Read Saskatoon on behalf of each weekly speaker.
* The club holds an annual ceremony at Rotary Park at the Peace Plaza where a brick is dedicated to a Nobel Peace Laureate. The students at a local school research the information about the Laureate and make their presentation to the club and visitors.
* The club donated to literacy programs and supported a computer literacy program.
* The club is sponsoring a Youth Leadership Workshop (LIKE) with the Saskatoon Indian Metis Friendship Centre. Monetary donation is $3,400 and members will speak at the program.
* Internationally the club donated money to The Ripple Effect program.
* Internationally the club raised money for an international literacy program by participating in the purchasing of the Rotary version Children’s Encyclopedia. Members purchased for themselves as well as seven that will be donated to organizations within the city. The purchase of the Encyclopedia was a literacy fundraiser for BELRAG and based in the US.
* The club applied for a District Grant for literacy.
* The club has organized a fundraiser for literacy. Last August they held Saskatoon Ribfest as a drive thru event as they were unable to hold their full Ribfest due to Covid restrictions. Funds raised during this event go towards the club’s commitment to St. Frances Cree Bilingual School.

(The club signed a new MOU at the end of last Rotary year with St. Frances Cree Bilingual School for a 5 year commitment of $20,000 per year going towards the new school that will be built. This MOU is for the club to donate and help facilitate the encouragement of cultural understanding in the arts and music.)

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon Riverside**

President **Dale Worrall** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Regarding youth, President Dale Worrall is a Director and Treasurer of District 5550 Youth Exchange Committee (RYEX). This committee organizes educational exchanges for Grade 11 and 12 students from our district to other countries. The committee is responsible for outgoing and incoming students. The committee is working to restore inbound and outbound participation.
* Internationally, the club is partnered with the Club Rotario Coatepeque Colomba for the construction of Escuela Nuevo San Luis under Global Grant #2096181. This project added two classrooms and upgraded the bathrooms to acceptable standards. The grant is slated to be extended to provide a kitchen to provide meals for the students.
* The club has applied for and was awarded a $1,400 District Grant to support the St. Mary’s Good attendance draws.
* The club is in the process of setting up a 50/50 raffle and proceeds will go to the continuation of the St. Mary’s School Project.
* The club conducted a virtual food drive in support of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Literacy Centre. The club provided fourteen bags of grocery items as well as over $3,000 in cash donations.
* The club has provided $3,200 to St. Mary’s Wellness and Education Centre to support their Good Attendance Draws initiative. Research shows that student’s reading levels are directly correlated to their attendance at school. This project is designed to enhance school attendance. If a student has three or fewer unexcused absences during the month, their name goes into a draw for a $400 hamper. This hamper contains food and other grocery items such as cleaning supplies, etc. The school determined that in many instances the reason for the student not coming to school was a lack of motivation by their caregivers. This $400 injection into the household provides an incentive to ensure their child attends school. Upto Grade 3 students are learning how to read. After that, they use their reading skills to learn. School attendance increases reading abilities, and as a result, literacy.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year, as well as a **Stepping Up For Literacy During Covid Recognition Certificate** for their support of St. Mary’s Wellness and Education Centre’s Good Attendance Draws initiative.

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon North**

 Club Literacy Contact, Ruth Marritt, on behalf of President **Don Ewart**, reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club participated in offering RYLA scholarships.
* The club participated in a Public Library program.
* The club supported a computer literacy program.
* The club members participated in purchasing encyclopedias supporting BELRAG.
* The club members offer tutoring with Read Saskatoon.
* The club financially supports the Adult Learning Centre at the Food Bank.
* Internationally the club supports the Days for Girls program, providing reusable menstrual supplies to keep girls in school.
* The club recognized International Literacy Day/Rotary Literacy month in September.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon Meewasin**

Literacy Chair, Art Postle, on behalf of President **Jay Cowsill,** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club has continued to thank guest speakers at their weekly club meetings with a book which is signed by, or on behalf of, the speaker and presented to St. Michael Community School for their use.
* The club had a speaker from Read Saskatoon make a presentation to the club in September 2021 for Literacy month.
* The club ordered five copies of the Britannica Kids Illustrated Encyclopedia made available through BELRAG which will be presented to schools in Saskatoon.
* The club donated funds to Sask Polytechnic for two scholarships to support two single mothers to continue their education at Sask Polytechnic.
* The club donated funds to Saskatoon Restorative Action Program, a program supported by the five rotary clubs in Saskatoon to provide a safe environment for students in nine of the high schools in Saskatoon.
* The club is working on developing a Story Walk project similar to the project done by the Rotary Club of Ladner, BC.  This project is in the very early stages of discussion with the Meewasin Valley Authority as to the viability and sustainability of such an undertaking.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Nipawin Passport**

President **Pat Chernesky** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered a $1,000 youth academic scholarship.
* The club offered a $100 youth music scholarship to the local Music Festival.
* The club does an award of $100 called THE FOUR WAY TEST AWARD whereby students write an essay on what the Four Way Test means to them in their lives and the lives of others. The winner is picked by high school staff.
* The club offered one RYLA scholarships last summer.
* The club had a successful used book sale in July, 2021 in downtown Nipawin plus throughout the year books have been sold from storage. The used books are donated by community members.
* The club donated $1,000 to the Oasis Centre last summer for support and reading material, much of which was in the Cree Language. This Centre serves marginalized people of the community in many ways.
* The club has set up a Little Free Library in town and plans to set up two more, one in town and another in a nearby Regional Park for the summer season (this one has not been approved yet).
* The club donated to the 18 Month Bag Program, established by the Health Region. These are given to families when a child is brought in for the well-baby checks and immunizations. The bags contain age appropriate books and materials, activities to promote healthy growth, etc. The club purchased 40 bags.
* Club President Pat Chernesky has been a reading mentor at two local elementary schools for several years, however since Covid, she has not been called, but is waiting!
* Internationally the club has contributed to the Rotary Club of Winnipeg Downtown’s Global Grant project, providing literacy and economic support for women and girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
* The club has applied for a District Grant for literacy. The club is currently applying for a Global Grant for a First Nations Literacy Program at two local reserves, in cooperation with the Family Resource Centre in Nipawin and the First Nations Educators.
* The club has applied for and received District 5550 grants for RYLA, the 18 Month Bag Program, the Oasis Project and Grade 12 scholarship. We are very fortunate to receive these grants!
* The club has applied for an International Grant for literacy.
* The club organized a used book sale for a literacy fundraiser.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Melfort**

President **Rick Robbins** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered a $500 youth academic scholarships to both a female and male high school student as well as a $1,000 scholarship to a Cumberland College student.
* The club offered RYLA scholarships.
* Club member, Bill Selnes, sits on the community Library Board.
* Club member, Gailmarie Anderson, participated in a Library Program.
* The club continues to support the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.
* Internationally the club donated $3,000 to the Ripple Effect program. The money comes from the club’s fundraising activities in the community, not one specifically.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Hudson Bay**

President **John Daisley** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered seven youth academic scholarships for $500 each.
* The club financially supported the North East Childhood Intervention Program.
* Within the community the club set up a program with the local Library called “Rotary Reads”. Rotarians pick up and deliver library books to the homebound.
* Within the community the club continues to maintain two Little Free Libraries – one downtown and one at the Regional Park by keeping them stocked with books.
* Internationally the club supports a child in Uganda through Plan Canada, giving him an opportunity to attend school.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Yorkton**

Club Secretary Linda Ouart, on behalf of President **Raymond Bailey,** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs:

* Offered youth music scholarships.
* Donated money to Ripple Effect program.

**Rotary Club of Regina**

Club Secretary Allen Goudie, on behalf of President **Grant Wasnik,** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Offered RYLA scholarships.
* Donated to United Way Regina’s Summer Success literacy initiative. The Rotary Club of Regina contributed $5,000 as part of a multi-year commitment to combat summer slide in vulnerable readers. Participating children, in Grades 1 – 3, are below grade level in reading. Our contribution helps provide a robust two-week literary camp for kids.
* Rotary Club of Regina members participated as volunteers on multiple occasions to pack and deliver Good Food Boxes to Summer Success literacy camp participants. Six volunteers from the Rotary Club of Regina helped pack, load and distribute 450 boxes of fresh fruit, vegetables and pantry staples such as oatmeal, dry pasta and eggs to 10 community school sites.
* In addition to Club sanctioned literacy initiatives, member Amanda Lanoway voluntarily serves on a committee of the Saskatchewan Literacy Network. This group works to create a consistent voice for family literacy across the province of Saskatchewan.
* The Rotary Club of Regina took advantage of the District 5550 Literacy Committee Encyclopedia Project with an investment of $520 toward the purchase of 20 copies. Copies will be donated on behalf of our weekly Club luncheon speakers and deployed throughout the year to local individuals and organizations including schools, libraries and non-profits.
* In response to Covid-19, the Rotary Club of Regina members volunteered as one-to-one reading guides via a partnership between United Way Regina and six local community schools implementing Vello. Volunteers commit to reading one-on-one with the same child for 30 minutes twice a week for at least six-weeks to improve grade-level reading and build positive associations with literacy. Vello is an innovative online program that helped to support vulnerable readers when in-person opportunities were suspended indefinitely. Vello utilizes computers, headsets, and personalized levelled books via screen sharing technology and a platform called Raz-Kids. Volunteers create their own profile and can schedule themselves online, attend the session, receive reminder notifications via text message and submit session feedback surveys all from the comfort of their office, home office or mobile phone!

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year, as well as a **Stepping Up For Literacy During Covid Recognition Certificate** for partnering with United Way Regina and six local schools to volunteer as one-on-one reading guides with the Vello online reading program.

**Rotary Club of Regina Eastview**

President **Pat Dell** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* Approved for five District Matching Grants for attendees of RYLA. One student was able to attend Virtual RYLA in 2021.
* Sponsored a student to participate in Adventures in Citizenship. On July 8, 2021 Kate Dederick, presented on the Virtual Adventures in Citizenship Program which she had attended in April/May 2021.
* Sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
* The Youth Services sub-committee arranged the following speakers to present at our lunchtime meetings on Zoom: On July 29, 2021 Krishan Kapila presented on the Saskatchewan Visual Art Project, which was held virtually. The club has supported this program financially since 2012. The Youth Services sub-committee plans to send participants to the Saskatchewan Visual Arts Program yet in 2022. On August 25, 2021 Leanne Kessler (Rotary district 5550 YEP Chair) made a presentation about the program to the members.
* “Community Literacy Speakers” at our noon meetings on Zoom included:
Literacy and the Regina United Way by Amanda Lanoway on August 5, 2021 and
“Ignite” Adult Literacy Program by Dellice Saxby on October 28, 2021.
* Donation to “Chili for Children” for which a Matching District Grant of $900.00 has been approved. Because of COVID our club members can no longer volunteer to serve the lunches.
* The Rotary Riders hold an annual motorcycle ride to raise funds for the Ripple Effect Program.
* The Club has “adopted” a mother in Bangladesh through the Amarok Society. Dr. Tanyss Munro made a presentation at a noon meeting on Zoom about the Amarok Society in this time of COVID on December 9, 2021.
* Applied for a District Grant for literacy.
* Applied for an International Grant for literacy.
* Donated to the Early Childhood Intervention Program for the purchase of Sensory Boxes to be used at home by parents who were uncomfortable about bringing their children to the Centre due to COVID.
* One club member continued to tutor English as an Additional Language one-on-one throughout the pandemic by transitioning from in-person to Zoom meetings through the Regina Public Library Literacy Unit.
* Donated to Regina Public Library for the provision of bookshelves to be put in 5 locations serving First Nations families in the inner city. These will be stocked with Indigenous content books to be selected by the First Nations librarian.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Regina Oskaya**

President **Bevi-Lynn Herron** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered RYLA scholarships: Oskaya sponsored four students to attend the virtual version of RYLA in August 2021.
* The club donated to a literacy program: the club purchased 20 Britannica Children’s Encyclopedia. 10 were donated to Kitchener Community School Library and 10 were donated to Sacred Heart Community School Library.
* The club sponsored or participated in a literacy program: 43 students in Grade 4 and 5 at Kitchener Community School were provided with $15.00 gift certificates to purchase books of their choosing from Scholastic Books Inc.
* The club was engaged in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, gifts-in-kind, extra tutoring, etc. $5,200.00 was donated to purchase equipment to set up two video studies.
* The club applied for a District Grant for literacy: The grant that was received was used to purchase the video equipment needed to create two video studies at Kitchener Community School in Regina, SK.
* The club recognized International Literacy Day or Family Literacy Day in January or Rotary Literacy month in September by inviting a literacy speaker to a club meeting or organizing a special event. They had a speaker from the Early Childhood Intervention Program speak at their meeting. This is a non-profit organization that provides support for at-risk children. They work with families and many other professionals like doctors, teachers, speech and language pathologists, and physiotherapists to help the child achieve their goals.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Moose Jaw Wakamow**

President **Monty Bennett** reported on the club’s support for the following literacy programs and projects:

* The club offered youth academic scholarships: two $1,000.00 scholarships were awarded to applicants applying to post-secondary education programs.
* The club offered youth music scholarships: $450.00 is provided to students participating in the Moose Jaw Music Festival.
* The club offered RYLA scholarships.
* The club donated to a literacy program: Our club donated $2,000.00 to a summer reading program for primary grade students in conjunction with school boards in Moose Jaw.
* The club sponsored or participated in a literacy program: One of our members was a teacher/director of the summer reading program held outdoors in a park. Data collected showed that these students improved their reading levels and/or show less regression through the summer months than their peers that did not participate in the program.
* A member of the club sits on a public library board.
* The club is in the process of learning about and deciding how to support local children in an Imagination Library Project.
* Other: The club purchased 14 Britannica Children’s Encyclopedia books to donate to each elementary school in Moose Jaw. We are in the process of organizing a competition based on the material from this book for all schools who would like to participate and earn a monetary prize.
* The club donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* The club donated money for scholarships in the Ripple Effect program.
* The club has applied for a District Grant for Literacy.
* The club organized a fund-raiser for literacy: Some members of our club cooked and served two dinners for the membership to purchase. This money was used to buy the encyclopedias for donation to the schools.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Award Certificate** this year!

*“Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.”*

*Chinese proverb*

