

# Rotary International District 5550

## 2023 – 2024 Literacy Report



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

Submitted by Lucille Ayers, Co-Chair, District 5550 Literacy Committee

District 5550 continues to be a district interested in promoting literacy in our communities and around the world. Our Literacy Committee contacts all clubs in the district two to three times from September to mid-March when information is due for this report. 24 of 46 clubs reported on their initiatives for 2023 – 2024 and 20 of these clubs have earned District Literacy Award Certificates.

Clubs that completed at least five literacy activities have been recognized with a District Literacy Award Certificate. In addition, special recognition has been given to one club for their initiative and creativity in organizing interesting literacy projects or fundraisers this 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 2023 – 2024**

Brandon 1344	Kenora	Regina	Saskatoon Nutana
Brandon Sunset	Melfort	Regina Eastview	Selkirk
Dauphin	Moose Jaw Wakimow	Regina Oskaya	The Pas
Dryden	Neepawa	Saskatoon	Winnipeg - Assiniboine
Flin Flon	Nipawin	Saskatoon Meewasin	Winnipeg - Downtown

### **Special Recognition**

Selkirk – donated \$150,000 to help fund the *Rotary Children’s Activity Centre* in the new Gaynor Family Regional Library. A signature legacy project.

## ONTARIO

### Rotary Club of Dryden

President **Lee Ann Benson** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Donated \$11,000 in scholarships to Dryden High School, Red Lake High School, and Ignace High School.
- Offered \$4,800 in RYLA scholarships.
- Offered \$3,200 in sponsorships for students to attend Adventures in Human Rights.
- Offered \$1,200 in sponsorships for students to attend Adventures in Citizenship.
- Hosted a Rotary Youth Exchange student.
- Donated \$4,500 to Migisi Sahagaigan School on Eagle Lake First Nation to purchase grow towers for an indoor garden.
- Donated \$10,000 to *Making Connections for Children and Youth* to provide sponsorship for cultural and recreational activities to those families experiencing barriers to accessing them.
- The club actively supports the Dryden High School Interact Club.
- Two club members are members of the Dryden and District Museum Board, and another member volunteers there. The Museum promotes cultural, historical, and environmental literacy through its many exhibits and workshops.
- Donated \$3,000 to the Dryden Entertainment Series to support artistic presentations and/or workshops in local schools when artists visit the community as part of the group's concert series.
- One club member serves on the Dryden Public Library Board, one club member is the President of the Friends of the DPL, and one club member is the Co-Chair of the District 5550 Literacy Committee.
- Sponsored the *Free Reading Program* on our website.
- In partnership with the Dryden Public Library and the Friends of the DPL, we have now built, and continue to stock and maintain, three *Books for Sharing* boxes in our community.
- Donated money to the Ripple Effect in support of schools in Guatemala.
- Led Amarak's Third Annual Christmas Promotion that raises funds from personal and club donations as well as matching dollars from an anonymous donor. Money raised supports Amarak schools in the slums of Bangladesh.
- During Basic Education and Literacy Month in September the Museum and Heritage Co-Ordinator for the City of Dryden was the guest speaker at a meeting and shared information on present and future projects and exhibits.
- At a meeting in September our Literacy Chair presented a review of the projects that earned our club a District Literacy Award.
- Held a mini- book exchange at a September meeting.
- Facebook post in January to promote Family Literacy Week and our *Books for Sharing* boxes.

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

## Rotary Club of Kenora

President **Christine Hansen** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Offered youth academic scholarships.
- Offered RYLA scholarships.
- Sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
- Donated to Kenora's *Dolly Parton Imagination Library* program.
- Participated in school-based literacy programs as reading mentors.
- Helped maintain our *Little Free Libraries* in the community.
- The club donated to community nutrition school programs in Kenora. Approximately 35% of children across the Kenora Riding live below poverty levels. More than 700 meals a day are served at area schools. In response to the gap where these students can access nutritious food on weekends, Kenora Rotary, in partnership with the Northwestern Health Unit, continues to administer the Nutrition on Weekends (NOW) Program, which provides a bag of nutritious food for the weekend to disadvantaged children.
- The club donated \$1,000 to the Annual Festival of the Arts which showcases music, poetry, drama, dance, and public speaking with participation from all ages.
- The club supports the Harbourfront Concert Series and the Lake of the Woods Concert Series with an annual donation. These showcase local talent as well as bringing in talent from across North America.
- The club sponsors an Interact Club at a local high school. Rotarians meet with students monthly and have participated in joint projects.
- The club partnered with Special Olympics for a Lucky Duck Race fundraiser.
- Donated money to the Ripple Effect program. Funds for school supplies were donated to be delivered to schools in Guatemala by members of the club.
- Three members of the club are members of the District 5550 Ripple Effect Committee.
- Provided scholarships for four middle school students in Mexico (Becca Program).
- Applied for a District Grant for literacy.
- Applied for an International Grant for literacy.
- Recognized International Literacy Day in September or Family Literacy Day in January or Rotary Basic Education and Literacy Month in September by inviting a literacy speaker to a club meeting or organized a special event.
- Organized a fundraiser for literacy.

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

## MANITOBA

### Rotary Club of Winnipeg West

President **Raman Talwar** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Entered into a partnership with Red River Community College to offer a scholarship for a maximum of \$5,000 over five years to each of two students who wish to enroll in a technology course which will lead to permanent employment in a well-established field.
- Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Citizenship.
- Club continues to provide funding to Keewatin Prairie School (formerly Cecil Rhodes School) to continue, upgrade, expand, and acquire culturally appropriate reading materials. The program was initiated with a grant from the club three years ago and a strong partnership has been established between the club and school staff and administration.
- Members volunteered to read to students during Keewatin Prairie School's *I Love to Read* event.

Although this club has not earned a District Literacy Certificate this year, we acknowledge their support and commitment as they are making a significant difference in these student's lives.

### Virtual Satellite Rotary Club of Winnipeg Charleswood

Chairperson **Nancy Hansen** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- At least once a month members donate new books from Amazon booklists created by the following organizations:
  1. Manitoba Prisoners Library Program  
*Winnipeg Remand Centre, Women's Correctional Centre in Headingly MN, Headingly Correctional Centre, Milner Ridge Correctional Centre in Beausejour MN, The Pas Correctional Centre in The Pas MN, Manitoba Youth Centre in Winnipeg*
  2. Westgrove Elementary School, Winnipeg
  3. Book Mates, Winnipeg
  4. Edmonton Library Association Story READING Program  
*Incarcerated participants record themselves reading aloud and recordings are sent to children in their families.*
- The club has had informative discussions about the global impact of illiteracy.

Although this club has not earned a District Literacy Certificate this year, we acknowledge their support and commitment as they are making a significant difference in the lives of inmates and their families.

### **Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Downtown**

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

- Offered RYLA scholarships.
- Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Human Rights.
- Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Citizenship.
- Sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
- Hosted a Rotary Youth Exchange student.
- Sent five pallets of books to two communities.
- Sent 420 books to five communities – *It Starts with a Dream* -published in English, Cree, and Anishinaabe.
- Organized, set up, and ran a reading program in one Indigenous partner community.
- One club member participates on a literacy or library board.
- Individual club members donated to the Ripple Effect program.
- Applied for an International Grant for literacy.

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

### **Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Assiniboine**

President **Warren Thompson** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Offered three academic scholarships of \$700 each.
- Sponsored seven students to attend RYLA.
- Sponsored one student to participate in Adventures in Citizenship.
- Sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
- Considering sponsoring students to participate in Adventures in Agriculture.
- Considering sponsoring students to participate in Adventures in Human Rights.
- Considering sponsoring students to participate in Adventures in Technology.
- One member serves on the Board of Book Mates – a charitable organization that instructs instructors.
- Donated money to the Ripple Effect Program.
- Annual support of \$3,000 for the Ripple Effect Teachers' Scholarship Program.
- Applied for a District Grant to support scholarships and RYLA.

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

## Rotary Club of Dauphin

President **Lindsay Dingwall** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Offered youth academic scholarships - High School and Community College.
- Offered youth music scholarships.
- Offered RYLA scholarships.
- Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Citizenship.
- Sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
- Committed to stocking a *Little Free Library* at the trail head of the community's trail system.
- Two members will be putting on a series of short plays in the spirit of *Creating Hope in the World* and literacy at two senior living centres.
- The club will have boxes of free books available in the community during February for *I Love to Read Month*.
- Applied for a District Grant for literacy.
- Run two book sales a year to support literacy programs in the community.

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

## Rotary Club of Neepawa

President **Pam Miller** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- The club offered youth academic scholarships. \$2,000 will be distributed this year to graduates attending university.
- Sponsored two RYLA students this year.
- Sponsored two teams to MUNA for the 23/24 year.
- Sponsored NACI Peer Helter Group in the amount of \$750.
- Assisted the school H.O.P.E. student group by providing bags to deliver to each home in Neepawa and then collected for a food drive. Over 3,000 pounds of food was obtained for the local Food Bank to provide families with extra food to improve nutrition and mental health.
- The club assisted with ArtsForward in sponsoring a Truth and Reconciliation Day for students.
- Provided funds to the Neepawa Filipino Association for Cultural Day which hosts well over 1000 participants.
- Club members participate in a public library program by reading to preschoolers every Friday.
- We have three Little Free Libraries set up in our community which we continue to maintain.
- In the local community, NACTV has several Rotarians on the board doing volunteer programming, one of which is reading the local newspaper. This is not a Rotary program but as

in other Rotary communities, Rotarians are heavily involved in other community groups and organizations.

- Internationally, we donated to the Ripple Effect Program, including scholarships.
- We have applied for District Grants for RYLA and scholarships.
- Yearly we hold an annual used book sale raising money for our literacy projects and encouraging families to read to their children.
- We have many speakers throughout the year with the focus on literacy.

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

### **Rotary Club of Portage La Prairie**

President **Jennifer Campbell** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Offered youth academic scholarships.
- Sponsored RYLA students.
- Hosted a Rotary Youth Exchange student.
- The club applies for District Grants for RYLA and their scholarships.

Although this club has not earned a District Literacy Certificate this year, we acknowledge their support and commitment as they are making a significant difference in these student's lives.

### **Rotary Club of Brandon Sunset**

President **David Lopez** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Offered two RYLA scholarships.
- Judged and donated prizes at the Brandon Science Fair.
- Provided books for Pre-kindergarten children at the local Wellness Fair.
- Provided Kindergarten students in the five lowest ranking schools in reading with a book to take home and keep.
- Assisted the Rotary Club of Brandon with their semi-annual Book Sale. This typically involves 3 – 5 people volunteering their time.
- Was the host club for a Global Grant Scholar at Brandon University.

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

### **Rotary Club of Gimli**

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

- Offered youth academic scholarships.
- Offered RYLA scholarships.
- Donated money to the Ripple Effect in support of schools in Guatemala.

Although this club has not earned a District Literacy Certificate this year, we acknowledge their support and commitment as they are making a significant difference in these student's lives.

### **Rotary Club of Brandon 1344**

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

- Offered youth academic scholarships.
- Offered RYLA scholarships.
- Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Citizenship.
- Sponsored students for Honoring Indigenous Peoples.
- Donated books to Little Free Libraries by encouraging community members to distribute books from our inventory to these libraries and by providing books to a free library at Brandon Airport.
- Recycle books donated by regional libraries in Western Manitoba.
- Continue to support a reading program with inmates at Brandon Correctional Centre. 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 Correction 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 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.
- Donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
- Contributed to the Ripple Effect for school building projects.
- Organized a book sale where one free book was provided to each child in attendance.
- Provided books, including children's and popular authors' books, to Brandon Airport for reading on Westjet flights because there is no store in the Brandon Airport.
- Continued to provide books to seniors' residential facilities under Manitoba Housing (Grand Valley Apartments, Winnipeg House, Hobbs Manor) and places like Rotary Villa. In such places, the seniors have limited access and are often restricted to their apartment units and building facilities.

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### **Rotary Club of Selkirk**

President **David Thorne** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Donated \$1,000 in scholarships to four junior high schools, and \$1,500 to Lord Selkirk Comprehensive High School.
- Offered RYLA scholarships.
- Offered sponsorships for students to attend Adventures in Human Rights.



- Offered sponsorships for students to attend Adventures in Citizenship. Overall, they have invested more than \$10,000 to these scholarships and programs.
- Donated two pallets of books to the Share the Magic, which distributes books to inner-city schools and fly-in First Nations schools.
- Donated \$150,000 to help fund the new Gaynor Family Regional Library. It is creating a 6000 sq. ft. centre focusing on children and youth, named the Rotary Children's Activity Centre.
- Donated money to the Ripple Effect in support of schools in Guatemala. Since its inception in 2009, the club has donated more than \$20,000.
- Each September we host our annual GIGANTIC BOOK SALE! In September 2023, we sold over 17,000 books. We also host an evening specifically for local teachers, to attend the sale, and pick out books for their classrooms for free!

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

### **Rotary Club of Flin Flon**

Co-Presidents **Troy and Cheryl Hilts** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Sponsored three students to attend Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) in 2024.
- Currently have a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Flin Flon from Brazil.
- Offer five youth scholarships in Flin Flon, Creighton.
- Donate to and participate in local Public Library programs.
- Contributed their annual donation to the Ripple Effect program.

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

### **Rotary Club of The Pas**

President **Don McKay** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- The club awarded three - \$1,000 scholarships to graduating students of the Margaret Barbour High School in The Pas, and one \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating student of Oscar Lathlin Collegiate located on the Opaskwayak Cree Nation. Scholarships could be used to enter any post-secondary training facility, including trade schools.
- The club donated \$500 to the Northern Juried Art Show to enable free entry to youth ages 9 to 17 years of age.
- There were two individuals involved with RYLA last year and one is gearing up this year yet.
- The club donated \$1,000 to each of the two elementary schools to offset costs of their swimming programs. Two \$1,500 donations were given to The Pas Road Runners Swim Club to cover the costs of running two swim meets.
- A donation of \$500 was made to offset the costs of local student participation in the provincial level of the Manitoba Skills Competition.

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## SASKATCHEWAN

### Rotary Club of Saskatoon

President **Wendy Cooper** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Sponsors two youth academic scholarship to Saskatchewan Polytechnic.
- Sponsored a student to RYLA plus a club member drove several students to RYLA.
- Our club is involved in the funding of a new Victoria Park Recreational Facility; it will be used by the Wild Sky Adventure Learning group, by CHEP's Urban Agriculture Internship program and the Riversdale Community Association for their cultural and educational programs.
- Donates to a literacy program – RAP.
- The club is heavily involved in RAP (Restorative Action Program) which is now active in 10 Saskatoon high schools, working to keep at-risk students in school and out of the criminal justice system; support with club and personal donations from members and several members sit on the board of directors for the program (including chairperson).
- The club continues their partnership with "Hope Restored Saskatoon", an organization that 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.
- Internationally the club donates to the Hope for Malawi Project – donated towards construction of early learning centres and an agricultural education program; a club member is the founder and director of this massive project.
- Internationally the club continues with the Joy's Center project in Uganda – the club has provided funds for food, medical supplies and school supplies for the school and orphanage there.
- Continues to support the Nepal Literacy Program in Siribari, Nepal; we are funding a lunch program and teacher's salary at a primary school there; new to this year the club is funding the purchase of goats which will contribute to the sustainability of the lunch program.
- Another international project is the Becus Scholarship Program. Club members and friends sponsor approximately 100 middle school, high school, and university students in the Puerto Vallarta area of Mexico where elementary education is compulsory and free only up to grade 6. We also collect and send used laptop computers to this school to support their computer education.
- Applied for a District Grant for literacy.
- Recognized International Literacy Day by having a club presentation on their newest community project - our participation in the funding of the Victoria Park Recreation Facility noted above.

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

### **Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana**

Literacy Chair **Candace Odishaw** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- The club continues their donation of \$2,000 per year for two youth scholarships at Oskayak High School. The scholarships are presented to students continuing on to post secondary education.
- Donated \$1,000 to Restorative Action Program (RAP).
- The club makes a donation to Foundations Learning & Skills Saskatchewan (formerly known as READ Saskatoon) on behalf of each weekly speaker. Our average yearly donation is \$1,000.
- For International Literacy Day in September, we had Lucille Ayers from the Rotary Club of Dryden speak to the club about their Be Reading Free Reading Program.
- This is the club's third year of providing \$20,000 to St. Frances Cree Bilingual School. Although the new school will not be completed now until 2025, the club is in collaboration with the school, working on enhancing an Indigenous performing arts program within the new school. This will include mentorship with the students, promoting arts and cultural resources. The club's full commitment in this project is for 5 years at \$100,000.
- We held a Steak Night Fundraiser specifically for the St. Frances project and invited and hosted many partners from the school district.
- The club holds an annual ceremony at Rotary Park at the Peace Plaza where a brick is dedicated to a Nobel Peace Laureate. This year grade 8 students from St. Anne School prepared the program, researched the Nobel Peace Laureate, Joseph Rotblat and Pugwash Conferences, and made their presentation to the club and visitors.
- This year in May we are holding our first annual African Heritage Fundraising Night in collaboration with another organization in the city, Truly Alive Family Foundation Inc. (TAFFI). This will bring the community together showing African cuisine and entertainment. Our portion of the proceeds will go towards a new multi-year Global Grant project focusing on Halbeo, a farming community in the Upper East Region of Ghana. The project will see the installation of water purification systems and the establishment of community water points. How this relates to Literacy is that it is generally the children that must travel for many hours a day providing water for their families, which means they are not in school.
- Donated \$2,220 to St. Edwards School to support taking students to Batoche to teach them Indigenous Cultural teachings.
- One of the Nutana club members has started an organization in Morocco so the club is helping with the purchase of computers and software to assist migrants in the country. The club is providing \$1,000 (including district grant). This will enhance literacy for migrants and enhance their employment opportunities.
- Received District Grants for its scholarships and Morocco project.

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

### **Rotary Club of Saskatoon Meewasin**

President **Luis Pagliarini** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- We donated funds for two bursaries to support single parents to continue their education at Sask Polytechnic.
- Sponsored a student to RYLA.
- Donated funds to the Saskatoon Restorative Action Program (RAP), a program supported by the Rotary Clubs of Saskatoon to provide a safe environment for students in ten of the high schools in Saskatoon.
- We have donated funds to the St. Mary's School Wellness Centre to provide a food basket given away each month to encourage student attendance.
- When the club has speakers, we have them sign a book which is presented to St. Michael Community School to assist them in promoting literacy to their students.
- The club has restarted the reading program at St. Michael School whereby a couple of Rotarians and/or their partners attend the school each week to listen to grade 2 students read a book and assist them in improving their reading skills.
- The club had the immediate past Poet Laureate of Canada, an indigenous lady, speak to the club in September to emphasize the importance of literature in honour of Literacy, the Rotary theme for that month.

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

### **Rotary Club of Nipawin**

Co-President **Pat Chernesky** on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Offered a youth academic scholarship upon graduation to a selected Grade 12 student pursuing a post-secondary program.
- Awarded a music scholarship at the local Music Festival.
- Sponsored one RYLA scholarship last summer.
- The club works in partnership with the Kinsmen and the Family Resource Centre on the Dolly Parton local committee, promoting and fundraising.
- We have three Little Free Libraries around our town which the club stocks on a regular basis.
- We donate books to the Family Resource Centre.
- The club is involved in a Global Grant in our community, being the HOST! This is a literacy program in two First Nations communities, and we have delivered decodable readers for the elementary schools in Cumberland House Cree Nation and James Smith Cree Nation. The progress of the students will be closely monitored through the Family Resource Centre and the Northeast School Division.

- The club holds a used book sale at least once a year to raise money for their ongoing projects.
- Applied for and receives District Grants.

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

### **Rotary Club of Melfort**

President **Merv Robblee** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Sponsored a \$500 scholarship to both a male and female high school recipient as well as a \$1,000 scholarship to a student at our local college.
- Sponsored two students at RYLA.
- Hosted a long-term exchange student from Venezuela.
- \$2,500 was donated towards Ripple Effect this year.
- The club has four "Little Free Libraries" set up in the community which we maintain.
- Provided a financial contribution to their Book Bag Program.
- A club member sits on the Library Board.

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

### **Rotary Club of Regina Oskaya**

President **Raymond Ruth** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Sponsored students to participate in MUNA.
- Donated to the Sacred Heart School Library.
- Donated to the literacy project at the Kitchener School of Indigenous learning and healing centre.
- Applied for a District Grant for literacy to support the literacy project at the Kitchener School.
- Organized a fundraiser for literacy by holding a Christmas Carol Festival at Sacred Heart School with the money going to the literacy programs.

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

### **Rotary Club of Moose Jaw Wakamow**

President **Lorne Calvert** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Provided two \$1,000 scholarships to high school students in Moose Jaw.
- Offered two \$400 youth music scholarships.
- Donated to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (10 children for 5 years).
- Donated to Festival of Words, a writing festival held annually in Moose Jaw. Our donation is specifically for Kids' Ink, children aged 5 – 14.
- Donated \$500 to the Moose Jaw Public Library for children's programming.
- Two club members participated on a literacy or library board.
- Club members participated in the Regional KidsFirst project, providing books and activities to pre-school children in the Moose Jaw area.

- Donated money to the Ripple Effect Program.
- Donated scholarships for the Ripple Effect Program.
- Applied for a District Grant for Literacy. Our club was able to increase our commitment to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library from 5 children to 10.
- Recognized Literacy Month in September. Our program meeting consisted of an informal presentation about the Free Reading program (thank you Candace and Lucille for the material), followed by book talks from club members and a book exchange.

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

### **Rotary Club of Regina Eastview**

President **Al Hoeft** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- Offered two RYLA scholarships and hosted a noon-hour presentation by participant Ireldrum Pankewicz.
- Offered one Adventures in Citizenship sponsorship and hosted a noon-hour presentation by participant Abu Duangon.
- Cheque presentation to Mother Teresa Middle School for purchase of Drums and Cases. Rotary Club members attended a music performance at the school.
- Donation to Chili for Children to provide hot lunches.
- Rotary members volunteered to pack backpacks for students orchestrated by the Salvation Army.
- Acknowledgement of September as Basic Education & Literacy Month with speakers. Literacy Presentations during September by Devon Stolz, Adult and Youth programming lead for Regina Public Library and Nelson Bird, CBC journalist.  
Book Publication: Sam Berg Chair of Youth services sub-committee: "Healing Disquiet – An Integrative Model for Relational Therapy." Living Water Press, January 2024.
- Donated to Ripple Effect program.
- Donated to an international literacy program – Amarak Society.
- PDG Peter Peters reports that we have two Ripple Effect Global Grant Projects in the final planning stages:
  1. A \$99,000.00 Computer Installation project which will benefit an estimated 5,000 students in 20 schools – our portion is \$25,000 supported by a District Grant of \$15,000.
  2. A \$98,000.00 WASH in schools project which will enhance the washroom, hand-washing and hygiene facilities in seven rural community schools for the benefit of 1,400 elementary school students and their teachers – our portion is \$18,000.00 with a District Grant of \$15,000.00
  3. A third Guatemala School initiative in which we are partnering with five other Rotary District 5550 clubs is a washroom and wash station project in a school with 270 students – our portion is \$6,100.00

- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Motor-cycle ride for the Ripple Effect school took place August 2023 and raised over \$16,000.00. Although the Rotary Club of Regina Eastview is the lead club, members of other Rotary District 5550 clubs from Dryden westward participated.
- Dr. Tanyss Munro has been scheduled to speak about the Amarok Society at our virtual noon meeting Thursday March 28, 2024.

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

### **Rotary Club of Regina**

President **George Carson** reported on the club's support for the following literacy programs and projects:

- A Rotary member actively recruits volunteers for Foundations Learning & Skills Saskatchewan and their SPARK Reading Guide school-based program which supports struggling readers in Grades 2 & 3 improve their grade-level reading. Volunteers visit Regina Public and Catholic Schools during the day to complete their volunteering.
- Rotary Club of Regina has officially sponsored to host the Free Reading Program in Regina and surrounding area with much of the promotion yet to take place before June 2024. The link is on our website.
- Hosted speakers from the Free Library Program at our September 2023 meeting to learn about the opportunity and acknowledge International Literacy Day.
- Planning underway to host a Family Literacy Storywalk® event in partnership with the Regina Region Family Literacy Hub prior to year-end (June 2024) to launch the Free Reading Program in Rotary Park.
- Provided the Britannica Kid's Encyclopedia as speaker token of appreciation at monthly luncheons.

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*Literacy is the ability to read, write, and use numeracy; to handle information; to express ideas and opinions; to make decisions and solve problems; as family members, workers, citizens, and lifelong learners.*



**CREATE HOPE**  
in the **WORLD**