

WHAT IS S.T.R.I.V.E.?

By Dick Teegen

Central Lakes Rotary Club

STUDENTS TAKING A RENEWED INTEREST IN THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

The Rotary S.T.R.I.V.E. program was established some 30 years ago by a Rotarian who was a member of the White Bear Lake Club. His motivation was that he did not feel he did that well in White Bear Lake High School and perhaps some students could use a boost and encouragement to better their lives. Today, there are around 20 Rotary S.T.R.I.V.E. programs within Twin Cities high schools.

In our District, I am only aware of Rotary S.T.R.I.V.E. programs in Brainerd High School and Pillager High School (sponsored by Brainerd Noon Rotary), and Pine River-Backus High School and Pequot Lakes High School (sponsored by Central Lakes Rotary).

The Senior High students are contacted by their 11th grade teachers and student counsellor and asked if they would like to participate in the program. These are students who they feel might need a boost through a mentor during their senior year by participating in a twice per month, one hour-long program, for the entire school year. Each session features a leading community member presenting topics of goal-setting, making choices, perseverance/self-worth, attitude, money management, job interviewing, honesty/integrity and potential career interests. After satisfactorily completing the year program, students can earn a scholarship to the learning institution of their choice.

Generally, there are approximately 10 volunteer mentors, teams of 4-5 students, the high school student counselor and principal. Mentors include Rotarians and community volunteers. Scholarships funds are raised from community, friends and some businesses.

If you would like more information about the S.T.R.I.V.E. program, please contact me at 218.682.2863 or email Teegen@aol.com.