

2007 Rotary District 6440
CLUB LITERACY PROJECTS
Literacy Recognition Awards

The District Literacy Committee's mission is to support district club literacy efforts and to inspire clubs to be more involved in effective literacy projects.

According to the United Nations Development Program, the combined adult literacy rate in all developing nations is below 75 percent, a sobering statistic that underpins the Rotary International President's commitment to support literacy and education initiatives.

The District 6440 Literacy Committee celebrates District Club efforts in literacy by giving Excellence in Literacy Awards and Literacy Certificates of Appreciation to clubs in the district that demonstrate an involvement in literacy activities. Awards and certificates will be presented at the District Conference, April 20, 2007, Bravo, Rotarians!

Throughout this year we hope all clubs will consider participating in the district-wide BIG Book Drive of 2007 as listed at the end of this brochure. Find out more about how your club can participate on the District Website.

District 6440 Clubs that participated in literacy projects in 2006 to 2007 are listed below. These clubs have received a Literacy Certificate of Appreciation:

Antioch Rotary Club - 60 members

Contact: Terry O'Brien, tobrien@grasslakeschool.com

Promoting Reading for Elementary through High School Students - During the Illinois Reading Awareness Week, five Rotarians visited Emmons School in Antioch to read to five different classrooms. Additionally, made a financial donation to Antioch Public Library and to Kids Hope United in Lake Villa to help improve their libraries.

Arlington Heights Rotary Noon Club

Contact: Ron Crawford, RFC319@ameritech.net

Rotary Reads Day - In School District 25, a group of ten Rotarians read to seven classes, a total of 140 students. Another group of five Rotarians read to twenty-five children in School District 214 Community Education's Family Literacy Program.

Book Donation Drive - With School District 25 and the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, the Rotary sponsored a book drive. Children were asked to bring gently used children's books (pre-K through 5th grade) to their school where they were collected by the Rotary Club. 3,500 books were collected and donated to District 214 Community Education's Family Literacy Program.

Arlington Heights Sunrise Rotary Club - 24 members

Contact: Linda Cesario, linda_cesario0@yahoo.com

Reading Corner for the Women's Center - Created a Reading Corner in the Family Literacy classroom of the local Women's Center. By constructing and stocking bookshelves and a puppet theater, Sunrise Rotarians encouraged reading among children and adults who are usually "print deprived" and whose ability to read ranges from limited to non-existent.

Rotary Reads - Eight readers read to sixteen children at the Women Center. Sunrise Rotarians now read on the fourth Thursday of each month. Also, donated \$2,000 to a variety of literacy programs.

Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club - 42 members

Contact: Narayan Murarka, npmurarka@comcast.net

ESL Classes for Adults - Provides educational opportunities for young Spanish speaking parents to learn English as a Second Language. It is expected that at the end of the one academic year's classes, the participants will be able to converse in English with their employers, school teachers and other community members.

Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, Canada - Pays for the trip of over twenty-five students to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario. This field trip provides students the unique opportunity to experience Shakespearean drama at one of the premier theater festivals in North America.

Speech Tournament - Fourth through eighth grade students in the Barrington Area participate in this public speaking tournament. Students are encouraged to write their own material or choose a script to memorize and present. Rotarians serve as judges for this event.

Bloomington - Roselle Rotary Club - 26 members

Contact: Ken Gross, kgross@roselle.lib.il.us

Bloomington's and Roselle's BIG Book Drive of 2006 - The Rotary Club's objective was to work with all elementary, middle, and high schools serving the Bloomington and Roselle area to collect gently used and new books for the Book Worm Angels Program. Once the books were collected they were given to the Program which then donated them to inner city Chicago schools that are reading below grade level.

Rotary Club of Crystal Lake Dawnbreakers

Contact: Susan Dobbe, sue(@dobbemarketing.com

Read, Write & Win! - Cooperative project with schools, Library and newspapers to encourage elementary and high school students to read a book and re-write the ending. This gives students a unique perspective while reading and a unique power to change the outcome of the story.

Deerfield Rotary Club - 24 members

Contact: Tom Healy, healv.tom@att.net

Ravenswood School Library Project- Provides a Parent/Student Bi-lingual Library in a primarily Hispanic Community. This created a library for parents and students to check out material together and to read and learn together.

Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club - 40 members

Contact: Mark Billings, mbillings@larkincenter.org

Fall Storytelling & Book Donation event - The club provided a literacy outreach program to the low-to-moderate income level attendees at the Sherman Hospital's 20th Annual Family Fun Fair. During the event the club paid for three professional storytellers in Spanish and English for four hours and donated 1,200 books, 1,000 of which were paid for with Rotary funds.

Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club

Contact: Sid Doolittle, doolots@aol.com

English as a Second Language Project with Orphanage/School in Madurai, India -Club has applied for support for this project with the Rotary International Service Committee. If approved, the project will involve the active support of a dozen or more club members and will be a major multi-year project.

Geneva Rotary Club - 29 members

Contact: Paul Mueller, muellpg@comcast.net

The Conversation Cafe - The objective of this program is to promote literacy in the Fox Valley for non-English speakers by collaborating with the Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley on a Conversation Cafe. Students are seated with their tutors and volunteers. Each table is given a choice of topics and the volunteers lead the group in English conversation.

The Trivia Bee - The program supports the Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley by sponsoring a Rotary team in their major fund raiser. The event promotes community awareness of Rotary by our presence. It is attended by churches, businesses, schools, and other clubs.

Glenview-Sunrise Rotary Club - 47 members

Contact: Mary Pribyl, mpribyl@aol.com

Rotary Guatemala Literacy Project - The object of the program is to bring much needed textbooks and computer centers to impoverished rural communities in Guatemala. The project is supported by Rotary clubs throughout the U.S., Canada, and the Cayman Islands. The project is unique in that it is a sustaining project, with ongoing support and oversight provided by our partnering organization, the cooperative for Education (COED) with offices in Guatemala and Cincinnati, OH.

Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Rotary - 70 Members

Contact: Mark Dewart, Mark.dewart@abbott.com

Uganda Project - To build, furnish and staff a vocational school for boys and girls ages 12 to 16 in Mityana, Uganda.

Mundelein/Vernon Hills Rotary Club - 39 Members

Contact: Scott Davis, scottdavis@fremontlibrary.org

Dictionary Project - Rotarians purchased and personally delivered a dictionary to every third grade student in every elementary school in the villages of Mundelein and Vernon Hills. The dictionaries are the student's to keep.

Family Literacy Program - Jim Trelease, noted author and reading advocate, will present a program at the Fremont Public Library for parents on the importance of reading to children. The Youth Services Department will provide activities for children from ages 3 through 7 while their parents attend the program.

Lake County Juvenile Probation/Detention Services - Educational Assistance - Worked in conjunction with school faculty at the detention center and with Youth Librarians from the Vernon Area Public Library District to select key classroom materials and up-to-date sources to help students achieve school credits while residing at the center.

Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates Noon - 82 members

Contact - Don Minor, don258@comcast.net

Pass on Your PC Campaign - This Rotary sponsored program focuses on improving parental support of their student's school success by providing rebuilt computers to parents who have been screened by the program partners. Parents have an opportunity to enhance literacy support for their children at home and school by using technology and web-based connection to school and community literacy resources.

The Sleep Tight Program - To provide a lending library of books for low income, disadvantaged, and single parent families in Schaumburg Township. This program will give parents availability to build a library of books to read to their children at bed time.

Pals Program - This program provides a positive adult role model and caring mentor to low economic and disadvantaged elementary students. Participating students have access to one-on-one and small group instruction. The Rotarians involved in the program as mentors give encouragement and acknowledgement to help the students find success.

Breakfast with Books Program - Club members participate in and fund a program which provides breakfast while the children have an opportunity to be exposed to books. This program helps students start their day ready and not distracted because of hunger.

John Muir School and Community Committee - Rotarians become active members of the John Muir School and Community Committee to allow a more complete understanding of the core issues impacting illiteracy and economic dependence. Helps Rotarians understand educational needs of students by looking at parent and school need.

Hoffman Estates High School Interact Club - By meeting with high schools it allows Rotarians to impart the values of Rotary with high school students. It allows Rotary to develop expanded partnerships with the local schools.

Villa Park Rotary-

Contact: Michael Hirsch, mihirsch@hotmail.com

Villa Park Rotary Club Literacy Project/Voyage to Book Island - In conjunction with the Youth Services Department of the Villa Park Library, a weekly reading program will be provided at three neighborhood elementary schools. The targeted schools have a significant number of low-income students who struggle with reading literacy. The Rotary Club provides \$10,000 for staff, books, transportation, incentives and monitoring charts so the children can receive library services in the local school. This program overcomes huge location issues in getting to the library.

Waukegan Rotary Club - 34 members

Contact: Roycele Wood: rwood@lake.k12.il.us

Adopt a School Program -Worked with a Waukegan Public School, Oakdale School, which is 80 Hispanic. The Rotary helped them to improve literacy with their students by reading in classrooms and by increasing the amount of printed literature available in the classrooms.

Wheeling Rotary Club - 25 members

Contact: Tamiye Meehan and Courtney Clausen, c.clausen@comcast.net

20 Bucks or 20 Books - To collect books or money to purchase books to distribute to local elementary schools. These schools have a high number of low-income families and the majority of the students are in the free or reduced lunch programs. These are also the schools that participated in the Big Book Drive of 2005 and helped the Wheeling Rotary Club collect over 5,000 books to distribute to inter city schools through Book Worm Angels.

Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club - 71 members

Contact: Linda Frothingham, Frothideas@comcast.net

Literature for All of Us Annual Book Drive - Literature for all of Us is an organization that works with teen mothers (many of whom have dropped out of school) in book groups to discuss literature and write poetry. Each year for the last five years, the Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club has provided the teen mothers with blank journals to use as well as new books for their children. These gifts are provided at an annual Holiday party for the more than 600 participants in Literature for All of Us.

Rotary Club of Wilmette (Noon) - 69 members

Contact: Maurice Ann Sullivan, mauricewsullivan@aol.com

Literacy Programs - To provide educational materials to inner city schools where students' reading levels are at least two to three levels below their grade level. Textbooks designated for the basic curriculum are considered for donations. Multiple copies of titles allow for effective teaching and tutoring in group situations. Library books provide students with additional reading opportunities for information and pure enjoyment. Through the use of these materials students have raised their reading levels, sometimes to above their grade level.

PLEASE SUPPORT The BIG Book Drive of 2007

Often what separates those of us in the comfortable suburbs from those in the inner city is the ability to read. Imagine not being able to read well, yet needing to know important written information such as doctor's instructions or job information.

Book Worm Angels (BWA) founded in 1998 by Wilmette Rotarian Kermit Myers has identified 171 inner city Chicago public schools where over 70 of the students cannot read at grade level. BWA's goal is to encourage reading and make it more enjoyable by providing ten new or slightly used books per student in classroom libraries in every classroom in each of these 171 schools. **We need books!**

The books are provided by book drives in suburban elementary schools run by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, friendly neighbors and Rotarians.

Your club can help in two ways:

- Donate up to \$1,000 to adopt an inner city school where over 70 of students read -below grade level.
- Run a two or three week book drive in your local schools. You will receive a well-planned kit of information on how to run the drive. BWA will deliver the books from your storage space to the appropriate school.

Visit the District 6440 website literacy pages to keep up with literacy progress in our district.

JOIN THE DISTRICT LITERACY COMMITTEE

Interested in working to help promote literacy activities in our district? Meetings are relatively brief, and conveniently scheduled at the Indian Trails Public Library in Wheeling.

With more help there's no telling what we might be able to achieve in improving literacy!

Contact: Ken Gross kgross@roselle.lib.il.us. 2007 Literacy Committee chair

AWARD WINNING PROJECTS THIS YEAR:

In 2007, Nineteen Clubs submitted their literacy projects to the District 6440 Literacy Committee. All nineteen clubs will receive Literacy Certificates of Appreciation at the District Conference and, in addition, five clubs will receive Excellence in Literacy Awards. The five clubs are:

- Geneva Rotary Club - "The Conversation Cafe" and Trivia Bee.
- Glenview Sunrise Rotary Club - Rotary Guatemala Literacy Project.
- Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Rotary Club - Uganda Project
- Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates Noon - Pass on Your PC Campaign; The Sleep Tight Program; Pals Program; Breakfast with Books Program; John Muir School and Community Committee; and Hoffman Estates High School Interact Club.
- Wilmette (Noon Club) Rotary Club - Literacy Programs serving the inner City.