

## **Literacy Recognition Awards – 2010**

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.

Illiteracy is an international scourge of the first magnitude. The ABCs of Rotary reminds us of the scope of this challenge: "An estimated one billion people – one-fourth of the world's adult population – are unable to read." Moreover, according to a long-awaited national research study, 1 out of 7 adults living in the United States is unable to read this story.

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.

District 6440 Clubs that participated in literacy projects in 2009 and 2010 are listed below:

### **CLUBS WITH 30 MEMBERS OR LESS**

#### **Rotary Club of Arlington Heights Sunrise**

Contact: Linda Cesario, linda\_cesario@yahoo.com

**Nurturing Literacy in Our Own Backyard** — Sixteen volunteers supported literacy programs with their time, devoting a record number of hours – averaging 70 hours per week -- throughout the year. In addition, the Club continued its "adoption" of the library and media center at Olive-Mary Stitt Elementary School, including listening to students read each Wednesday morning. Moreover, 44 adult ESL (English as a Second Language) students are receiving Club tutorial assistance at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library and the Forest View Educational Center. The Club also raised funds for the Read to Learn Adult Literacy/Volunteer Program and donated 482 books to the Women's and Children Center.

#### **Crystal Lake Rotary Club (Noon)**

**B.A.C.K. Packet** — The Club contributed funds to the B.A.C.K. Packet program, which provides new books for children in crisis situations. Club members also fill the packets, which are then distributed to emergency vehicles (e.g., ambulances and squad cars).

### **Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village**

Contact: William J. Beaupre, JIAWB@aol.com

**Literacy Day at the Township** — Six Rotarians read to pre-schoolers at the Elk Grove Township Daycare Center and presented each of them with five beginning reading books that they could keep and share with their families. The Club also donated funds to the Center.

### **Fox Lake/Round Lake Rotary**

Contact: John Ahlemeyer, jahlemeyer@gavin37.org

**Gavin School District 37 Accelerated Reader Literacy Initiative** — The Club is planning to donate funds to help to launch a software program beginning next July to motivate and challenge students to enjoy reading more while helping them master reading standards and improving their attitudes toward learning. The Club will also donate books to the School District's book drive.

### **Huntley Rotary Club**

Contact: Jim Drendel, President, Drendel@icss.com

**Third Grade Dictionary Program** — 100% of the club members participated in giving 840 dictionaries to third grade students in three elementary schools. When delivering the dictionaries, Rotarians spoke to students about Rotary and the Rotary exchange program, and the students met the Club's exchange student.

### **Illinois Beach Sunrise Rotary Club**

Contact: Robert Divirgillo, rdivirgillo@bpd3.org

**Lunch Buddies** — Eight Rotarians participated, mentoring elementary-age students once a week at lunch. Mentors spend time together with their students while learning "i-touch technology". The Club donated funds for new i-touch technology for the school and applied for and received a Rotary matching grant for the technology donation.

### **Mount Prospect/Prospect Heights Rotary Club**

Contact: Greg Guarrine, gguarrine@d23.org

**Family Literacy Project** — Club members donated funds to the Community Connections Center in Mount Prospect to help in creating a welcoming home atmosphere and to create a literacy-rich environment so that all family members read and enjoy books and print material. Club members also volunteer for field trips, mentoring, and reading.

## **Mount Prospect Sunrise Rotary Club**

Contact: Marilyn Genter, mgenter@mppl.org

### **Supporting the New South Branch Library in Mount Prospect**

Club members donated funds, including \$1,000 from a Rotary District Simplified Grant, to purchase ESL materials. Club members have volunteered to carry and shelve books as well as helping out on opening day of the new library area, including serving as Tour Guides.

### **Volunteer Tutoring for the Read to Learn Adult Literacy/Volunteer Program**

One Club member trained for and is tutoring in this program.

### **Donating books to District Conference Wauconda Literacy Project**

Club members have collected 15 boxes of books which will be brought to the District Conference and shipped to Africa via Wauconda's Bookfriends International NFP.

## **Schaumburg AM Rotary Club**

Earl Bateman, earl.bateman@leewayne.com

**1,000 Books In each Classroom** — The Club donates funds to assist new schoolteachers with books for their classrooms.

**Reading Volunteering in Elementary Schools** — One Club member volunteers helping reading groups. Several others will be mystery readers in March of 2010. The Club donated tee shirts for the school district's "No excuses" college-bound student program.

## **Rotary Club of Villa Park**

**Contact Person: Susan McKean**, smckean@villapark.lib.il.us

**Summer Reading Program** — During the summer, the Club worked with local school districts and the public library to provide access to books, programs, and field trips to families in underserved areas of the Village. Children and parents record home reading time and earn as many as two new paperback books to keep. Club members donated funds to this project, including \$1,000 from a District Simplified Grant. More than 350 books were donated, and services were provided to more than 250 individuals.

## **Rotary Club of Wauconda**

**Contact Person: Jim Radtke**, jimradtke@allstate.com

**Homework Help** — Five Wauconda Rotarians and five Wauconda Interact Club members volunteer their time to help students with their homework. They often help students for whom English is not their primary language. The Wauconda Interact Club is new this year.

## **CLUBS WITH 31 OR MORE MEMBERS**

### **Arlington Heights Noon Rotary**

Contact: Linda Borton, LBorton@nch.org

**Rotary Reads** — Thirty club members have read and worked with English speaking non-native pre-schoolers in small group sessions using dialogical reading while their parents attended ESL classes. The children develop an awareness and appreciation for books and language.

### **Rotary Club of Crystal Lake Dawnbreakers**

Contact: Cliff Jackson, cjack1@sbcglobal.net

**“Read, Write and Win”** — Ten Club members have participated by running a contest open to all students in Grades 3 - 8 in Crystal Lake including homeschoolers. Selected books, chosen by staff at the Crystal Lake Public Library, are read by students who then re-write the endings. The students win \$100, \$75 and \$50 Chamber of Commerce Checks. The Club donated 75 books and funds for prizes.

### **Dundee Township Rotary Club**

Contact: Jim Bolz, President, jbolz@mhbm.com

**Reach Out and Read** — The Club donated funds to purchase books for the Greater Elgin Family Care Center's Reach Out and Read program.

**The Dictionary Project** — The Club bought dictionaries for 432 students.

### **Rotary Club of Geneva**

Contact: Dave Nelson, NelsonDA@CTT.com

**Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley Trivia Bee** — Eight to ten Club members participate in a literacy “bee” answering questions of increasing difficulty to support one-to-one literacy tutoring for adults. The club donates funds to support the project.

## **Rotary Club of Gurnee**

Contact: Stephen Bero, Sbero@enpl.info

**Gurnee Family Reading Night 2010** — The Club supplied Gurnee School District 56 with a total of 50 books to be awarded to its students who participate in its Family Reading Night on March 23, 2010. In addition, Club members donated four backpacks containing gifts such as notebooks, miner's lights, and constellation maps to be raffled off at Family Reading Night to raise funds for future Family Reading Nights and other literacy initiatives in School District 56.

## **Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Rotary**

Contact: Kaye Grabbe, Literacy Chair, kgrabbe@lfl.alibrary.com

**Uganda Project: Kids Uganda** — The Club donated funds to this foundation which was established to support four schools and an orphanage serving 1,000 students, including 125 orphans in Mityana, Uganda. Twelve Rotarians are active volunteers with the foundation and three others have made one or more trips to Uganda.

## **Lake in the Hills Rotary Club**

**Tammy Poole**, tamara.poole@d300.org

**Rotary Reader's Club** — Six Club members meet twice a year -- in February and May -- with forty 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. At the first meeting students each receive a book about a famous person who has overcome great challenges to become successful. Students read the book and deliver a mini- oral report at the end-of-the-year celebration. Students have the opportunity to interact with Rotarians as positive role models. The Rotarians talk about Rotary, their individual roles in the organization, and their actual professions as well.

## **Libertyville Sunrise Rotary Club**

Contact: Janice Matthews, matthews@ogschool.org

**Rotary Reads** — Club members go to Libertyville and Oak Grove Elementary Schools to read to every 1st through 3rd grade class twice a year.

After the Rotary members read in the fall, teachers are invited to make up a wish list of books that can be found on Amazon.com. Book orders, valued at fifty dollars, are purchased for each classroom. In the spring, the Rotary readers go back to the classrooms and the children read their new books to the Rotarians. This program has been taking place for four years.

### **Northbrook Rotary Club**

Contact: Sharon Weingarten, MSW, Sharon@weingartens.net

**Northfield Food Pantry** — The Club donated over 200 books, each one with a label reading “A gift from the Northbrook Rotary Club.” Books were included in holiday baskets.

**Reach Out and Read** — Club members donated funds and some of the Club members volunteered to work directly with children at one of the Reach Out and Read Clinics. Representatives from Costco expressed interest in partnering to support Reach Out and Read.  
(Reachoutandread.org)

### **Park Ridge Rotary Club**

Contact: Anna Rybak, amr3104@hotmail.com

**The Dictionary Project** — Three Park Ridge Rotarians distributed dictionaries to all the third grade students at the Donoghue Charter School located on Chicago's south side. The volunteers distributed 50 dictionaries and also donated 10 different types of dictionaries to add to the Donoghue library.

### **Rotary Club of Waukegan**

Contact: Richard Lee richardlee@waukeganpl.info or  
DJ Leonhardt, djlconhardt@att.net

**The Gift of Reading** — This program is designed and implemented by Waukegan Rotarians to provide books as gifts to all pediatric patients from birth to 18 having scheduled procedures at Vista Health Systems East and West in Waukegan. Many of the books are bi-lingual, and all come with a bookmark and letter encouraging the child/family to visit the library. Bookcases are stocked in the consultation room and the main waiting area. Signs encourage guests to select a book for reading pleasure and let them know they can take books home if they like, compliments of the Rotary of Waukegan. Twenty-five Club members have been involved in the project. The Club received a District 6440 grant of \$1,000 for this program and plus added Club funds. The program reaches 1,025 pediatric patient families and thousands of friends.

## **Rotary Club of Wilmette Noon**

Contact: Jackie Granat, Vocational Service Chair, granatj@comcast.net

**Annual Book Drive** — Eight members of the Wilmette Noon Club collected 17,000 gently used children's books from Wilmette K – 8 public and parochial school families and school libraries. The Wilmette Public Library and the Lake Bluff Public Library contributed general interest books geared to high school students. Volunteers sorted the 17,000 books by grades and boxed them for distribution to eight charter and parochial inner-city Chicago schools.

**The Dictionary Project** — 1,200 dictionaries and thesauri were purchased for two inner city high schools, the Lawrence Hall School and St. Agnes of Bohemia, with each freshman being provided with his/her own dictionary and thesaurus.

**Holiday Books** — The Club provided 35 residential students at Lawrence Hall with a gift-wrapped book along with a personal note from the Rotarian fulfilling the student's holiday book request.

## **Winnetka Northfield Rotary Club**

Contact: Jeanne Beckman, jbeckman@jeannebeckman.com

**Dictionary Projects Plus** — Print dictionaries and Ultimate Talking Dictionaries with Rotary bookplates affixed were purchased and delivered to special needs students at Winnetka and Northfield Public Schools. Most Club members participated in fund raising.

**Warming the Hearts and Minds of Chicago's At-risk Youth Program** Print dictionaries and new winter coats were distributed to 388 "wards of the state" served by Lawrence Hall Youth Services. The Club received a District Simplified Grant for this project. Eight Rotarians distributed the books.

**Bookfriends International NFP** — The Club donated funds to the project.

**Children's Memorial Hospital laptops in long-term-stay ward** — The Club is participating in a pilot program to equip Children's Memorial Hospital's long-term patients with access to e-learning opportunities.

**Khai Tri — Helping Homeless Children in Vietnam** — The Club completed a school library and innovative learning center for Kai Tri Orphanage in Vietnam.

**<http://winnetkarotaryliteracyprojects.blogspot.com/>** — The Club literacy committee maintains an innovative Rotary Literacy Projects Blog.

**Reach Out and Read** — The Club is planning a joint project with the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library this summer for a children's summer read-a-thon to raise funds for Reach Out and Read.

## **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 or at Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights.

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

Contact: Linda Cesario, Chair of the Rotary District 6440 Literacy Committee, linda\_cesario@yahoo.com

## **AWARD WINNING PROJECTS THIS YEAR**

In 2009-2010, 24 clubs submitted their literacy projects to the District 6440 Literacy Committee. Each of these clubs will receive a Literacy Certificate of Appreciation. In addition, six clubs were chosen to receive Excellence in Literacy Awards:

### **Small Clubs (30 members and under)**

- Arlington Heights Sunrise – Nurturing Literacy in Our Own Backyard
- Illinois Beach Sunrise – Lunch Buddies
- Mount Prospect Sunrise – Supporting the New South Branch Library in Mount Prospect, Volunteer Tutoring for the Read to Learn Adult Literacy/Volunteer Program, Donating Books to District Conference

### **Large Clubs (More than 30 members)**

- Waukegan — The Gift of Reading
- Lake Forest/Lake Bluff — Uganda Project: Kids Uganda
- Wilmette Noon — Annual Book Drive, The Dictionary Project

**Reach Out and Read ([Reachoutandread.org](http://Reachoutandread.org))** — In fall of 2009 the District 6440 Literacy Committee voted to adopt Reach Out and Read by providing information and presentations to Clubs who wanted to know more. Reach Out and Read, a project of the American Academy of Pediatrics Illinois Chapter, trains doctors and nurses to talk to parents about the importance of reading aloud to children from six months to five years of age. The children receive a new book to take home at each of their annual check-ups, and clinic waiting rooms are transformed into literacy-rich areas with volunteer readers modeling techniques of reading aloud. One-third of eligible at-risk Illinois families receive Reach Out and Read's services.