

## **Literacy Recognition Awards – 2014** revised 6/14

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* to clubs in the district that demonstrate an involvement in literacy activities. Awards will be presented at the District Conference.

District 6440 Clubs that participated in literacy projects in 2013/ 2014 are listed below:

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

#### **Mount Prospect/Arlington Heights Sunrise** *\*winner small club*

Contact: Linda Cesario, [linda\\_cesario@yahoo.com](mailto:linda_cesario@yahoo.com)

**Growing Our Community Literacy Garden:** Our club has continued its unwavering commitment to community literacy. Some service projects continue from past years such as providing weekly tutoring services to more than 60 adults and children in Mt. Prospect, Arlington Heights, and surrounding towns. The Club has expanded its support of literacy by honoring members of the community for their volunteer efforts, by adding the High School District 214 GED program to its outreach list, and by providing two dog safety programs for children prior to their winter and summer school vacations. Our students' achievements in school, on the job, and at home underscore the impact which Rotary assistance continues to have on the growth of reading, writing, and speaking skills. Our Club's literacy projects is akin to planting and nurturing an ever-growing "garden" of literacy, some perennials, some annuals, all reaching fruition in those we are pledged to serve.

#### **Central DuPage AM Rotary Club**

Contact: Ben Heaton, [BLHeaton@comcast.net](mailto:BLHeaton@comcast.net)

**Back to School Back Packs:** In cooperation with the Regional Superintendent of schools, our Club provided money so children could have a back pack loaded with school supplies. These were distributed in August one day at the County Fairgrounds before school began.

### **Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club**

Contact: Alan Kirk, 847.815.4895

**Reading Buddies:** Twice a month 2-4 members go to a local elementary school to read with students; our Exchange Student participates in this program.

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

Contact: Steve Pickett, 847.409.3297

Members read at the Elk Grove Township daycare; about 45 children in the pre school get a book bag with 4 books. A skit called The Three Little Pigs Who Like to Read was performed at 2 elementary schools. The local Interact group also performed the skit twice. In total, about 90 books were provided to the children.

### **Fox Valley Sunset Rotary Club**

Contact: Linda Liddell, [lliddell08@gmail.com](mailto:lliddell08@gmail.com)

**Change Lives-Read:** As a new Club, this is our first literacy project. We are collecting about 300 new and gently used books to be donated to the local K-6 school district and the Boys and Girls Clubs in the area. This is a first step to a year-round sustainable program including other area clubs and community partners.

### **Huntley Rotary Club**

Contact: William Jorgensen, [wjorgensen@yahoo.com](mailto:wjorgensen@yahoo.com)

**Huntley Area Public Library Tumble Books:** This is a program free of charge to any Huntley Library card holder. Tumble Books offers books, educational games and short videos that develop literacy skills and can be used by children of all ages.

### **Lake Zurich Rotary**

Contact: Nancy Shepherson, Nancy [Shepherdson@hotmail.com](mailto:Shepherdson@hotmail.com)

**Food Pantry Books for Kids:** The Club has raised thousands of dollars over the years for the local food pantry, sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul Society. The Club noticed that many children came to the food pantry and decided to collect books for donation to the pantry. The community responded and donated many books to the Chamber's Expo, where the Club had a booth. The goal is to provide each child with one book a month; about 200 books are given away each time.

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

### **Highland Park/Highwood Rotary Club***\*winner large club*

Contact: Fred Orkin [fred@fredorkin.com](mailto:fred@fredorkin.com)

**Highland Park Student Literacy Program:** Two literacy programs are focused on low to moderate income students. The Financial Literacy Program fills an unmet need at the high school and is offered as a one hour once a week after school course scheduled during the 'homework club'. The course is held for seven sessions in the fall semester; it has a three year record of great success. The Reading Literacy Program provides unique reading skill interactive software to elementary students for use at home and summer use.

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

Contact: Kaye Grabbe, Literacy Chair, [kgrabbe@lfl.alibrary.com](mailto:kgrabbe@lfl.alibrary.com)

**Dictionary Project:** For 4 years, the Club has provided age appropriate dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders; this year is was at Oak Terrace School and St. James School in Highwood.

**Rotary Club of Wilmette***\* Honorable Mention "on-going and always participating in the application process"*

Contact: Maurice Sullivan, [mauricesullivan@aol.com](mailto:mauricesullivan@aol.com)

**The Big Book Drive for Inner-City Schools:** With vast community support and lots of hard work, this year's big book drive project, which expanded to include high school books for the first time, resulted in a collection of about 14,000 K-12 children's school and reference books from local institutions. Books came from McKenzie, Ramona, Harper and Central Schools, Highcrest and Wilmette Junior High, Marie Murphy, St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier Schools in Wilmette and St. Athanasius School in Evanston. More came from New Trier and Regina Dominican High Schools and public libraries in Wilmette, Northfield/Winnetka, Glenview, Skokie and Lake Bluff. Books were distributed to seven schools in the Little Village, Pilsen, Back of the Yards, Lawndale and Marquette Park neighborhoods.

## **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 Schaumburg Public Library. With more help, there's no telling what we might be able to achieve in improving literacy!

Contact: Kaye Grabbe, Chair of the Rotary District 6440 Literacy Committee, [kgrabbe@lfl.alibrary.com](mailto:kgrabbe@lfl.alibrary.com)

**Reach Out and Read (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. **Information about doing a Read-A-Thon to raise funds for your local school and Reach Out and Read, is available on the District web site, on the Literacy web page.**