

## **Literacy Recognition Awards – 2015**

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 2014/ 2015 are listed below:

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

#### **Lake Zurich Rotary** *\*winner small club*

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

**Growing Tomorrow's Readers:** With the aid of a District Grant for \$1,000, free books were given to children each month at the local Food Pantry when eggs and milk were distributed. The Club also gave out Spanish/English Dictionaries for parents.

#### **Arlington Heights Rotary**

Contact: Mike Field [mike.field@d214.org](mailto:mike.field@d214.org)

**Rotary Reads:** In collaboration with District 214 Community Education Foundation, this on-going literacy program provides 6-8 volunteers who read and conduct pre-reading activities with pre-school children while their parents attend ESL classes.

#### **Carol Stream Rotary**

Contact: Robert McNees [Robert@mcneassociates.com](mailto:Robert@mcneassociates.com)

**1000 Books Before Kindergarten:** Club provided a donation of \$1,000 to the Carol Stream Library to assist with the 1000 Books before Kindergarten Program, a read-to-me program for children ages 0-5. 430 children have registered.

**Little Lending Libraries:** Funded the installation of 10 Little Lending Libraries in socio-economically deprived apartment complexes; Club funded \$500 for

Glenbard North High School wood shop to construct the units; the Interact Club members will do the installation. The high school, the public library and the club will donate books and the Interact students will resupply the units.

### **Cary-Grove Rotary**

Contact: Susan Maifield [msmaifield@comcast.net](mailto:msmaifield@comcast.net)

**Paws to Read:** The Club provided funds from a District Grant to supplement the Fox River Grove Memorial Library's Summer Reading Program; this program includes reading to therapy dogs.

### **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.

**Literacy Tutors:** Working with Literacy of DuPage and Helen Plum Library, provided funding to help recruit tutors.

### **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 [Steve@SCPickett.com](mailto:Steve@SCPickett.com)

**Readers Theatre Skit; Day Care Reading:** Members perform a skit at local schools. Club members read to pre school classes at a township day care. Children are given a bag with 4 books to take home and keep.

### **Huntley Rotary Club**

Contact: Leigh Ann Porsch [laporsch@huntleylibrary.org](mailto:laporsch@huntleylibrary.org).

**Huntley Area Public Library Tumble Books:** This is an annual program free of charge to any Huntley Library card holder. A donation of \$1,000 for Tumble Books offers books, educational games and short videos that develop literacy

skills and can be used by children of all ages. Use of the program has increased by 1,781% last year!

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

**Rotary Club of Antioch/Interact Club of District 117\****winner large club*

Contact: Bob Deiss [rwdeiss@deissdesigns.com](mailto:rwdeiss@deissdesigns.com)

Contact: Interact Club: Colleen Buzby [colleen.buzaby@chsd117.org](mailto:colleen.buzaby@chsd117.org)

**Vocational Skill Building and Economic Development:** With a Global Grant, this project provides teens and community members in the area of Kilimahewa Tanzania with knowledge, competencies and tools to achieve a life of self reliance. With many partners, the clubs raised over \$66,000 for this ongoing project.

#### **Glen Ellen Rotary**

Contact: Dawn Bussey [dbussey@gepl.org](mailto:dbussey@gepl.org)

**Weekly Book Donation:** Each week, a book is donated to the Glen Ellen Public Library in the name of the speaker. The cost is about \$500 a year.

#### **Glenview Sunrise Rotary**

Contact: Mary Pribyl [mpribyl@aol.com](mailto:mpribyl@aol.com)

**Guatemala School Sponsorships:** Along with a \$2500 Global Grant, the Club provided funds for textbooks to rural villages. School sponsors (Colegio Bethel and El Mirador) fund administrative, training and other costs. The Club contributes \$2500.

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

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

**Dictionary Project:** For 5 years, the Club has provided age appropriate dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Highwood schools.

#### **Rotary Club of Wilmette**

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

**The Big Book Drive for Inner-City Schools:** With community support and lots of hard work, this year's big book drive project, which includes high school

books, resulted in a collection of about 15,120 (360 boxes) 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.**