

Suggestions for instantly successful literacy projects:

District 6440's Literacy Committee is striving for 100% club participation in literacy projects for the 2011-2012 Rotary Year.

SO...if your club has not yet set up your literacy project, here are some additional quick and easy literacy projects. Undertake just one to begin and as your club begins to enjoy their success at this one, find additional ways you can help your community to 100% literacy.

#1

Under the guidance of Rotarian Steve Kutschat, the Wauconda club is collecting books, particularly textbooks and good middle school and high school fiction, for shipment to schools of several African countries. Check out his website for the subject matter he is seeking: www.bookfriends.org. For each school, he supplies 25-30 textbooks on each subject and a library of general reading materials of between 1000 and 1500 books. The library books are shipped with pockets and bookcards, ready for loaning. At present, he is reaching about 30,000 students. No religious, sex or murder mysteries are accepted or shipped.

#2

Support *Reach Out and Read*. Help children grow up with a love of reading and a solid foundation for learning to read. *Reach Out and Read* makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric primary care.

In the exam room, trained doctors and nurses talk to parents about the importance of reading aloud. At each check-up from 6 months to 5 years, the child receives a new book to take home. Clinic waiting rooms become literacy-rich areas with volunteer readers modeling techniques of reading aloud.

Clubs can adopt individual *Reach Out and Read* programs, support programs through donations or books, provide waiting-room readers and/or organize and label books. Download *Reach Out and Read Sites Close to Dist. 6440 Clubs* from the [District 6440 web](http://www.rotary6440.org) site: www.rotary6440.org under Community Service.

To get involved or for more information, contact
Jessica Papp
Reach Out and Read of Illinois Project Manager
jpapp@illinoisrap.com
Tel: 312/733-1026 ext 204

#3

Collect Spanish language materials for the library-building project at Ak' Tenamit in Guatemala. Arrange to ship Spanish language materials appropriate for 7th through 12th grade students. E-mail Larry Kanar (LPK471@hotmail.com) or Tamiye Meehan (tamimee@aol.com) for shipping information.

#4

Consult your local public library. Library use is soaring and funds are tight. There will a section of the collections that your club can help purchase.

#5

Check with a local elementary school's media center or the media center of a school in a poorer community. Many schools need bi-lingual materials but lack sufficient funds

Rotary clubs can ensure that the collections are up-to-date through the purchase books and other media for the school library (aka media center).

#6

Start a dictionary project, purchasing dictionaries for every third grader in the local school See: www.dictionaryproject.org

#7

Talk to local school principals. Many schools welcome Rotarians willing to read to the children in grades 1 to 3. Club members have also provided listening and feedback for children who need to practice their reading skills.

#8

Support BookWorm Angels with a book drive. BookWorm Angels, founded in 1998 by Wilmette Rotarian Kermit Meyers, distributes new or slightly used children's books as classroom libraries in inner city schools. Kermit can arrange a pick-up of donated books. Your club can also donate up to \$1,000 to adopt an inner city school where over 70% of the students read below grade level.

#9

Collect new or slightly used children's books to distribute at your local food pantry. When money is tight, parents sometimes refuse to use the local library because they fear running up fines. Keep the children reading.

#10

Purchase subscriptions to "Easy English News" for a local Adult Literacy Program. This is a newspaper for adult learners as well as upper elementary grades and is much desired in adult literacy groups. A single 10 subscription (no July or August issues) is \$35. There are group discounts available: 2-3 copies @ \$2.50 each and so forth down to 200+ copies @ \$0.95 each. Easy English News, P.O. Box 2596, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. Contact Lesley.Goldberg@d214.org for more information.

#11

For clubs in Lake County: LakeCountyCares coordinates people and organizations that need volunteers. Go to www.lakecountycares.org and click on the Outreach Programs

tab to see a way to collect used children's books (The Sarah Mynhier Book Drive) or an opportunity for your club to provide funds for a program that pairs kids from Lake Forest and Lake Bluff with kids from neighboring communities in a reading program called "Sarah's Dream: Read with Me!"

Your club's ideas:
