



ROTARY SERVICE CONNECTIONS

8 September 2013

Susan Wakefield
District 9685

Dear Rotarian Wakefield:

The gift of literacy lays a foundation for success: it opens doors, provides greater opportunities, and helps people advance out of poverty. Literacy creates positive cycles of education, health, and peace. Today is International Literacy Day, and now is the perfect time to use our talents and resources to help increase literacy skills around the world.

Please forward this message to your clubs and encourage them to get involved by collaborating with one of Rotary's partners in literacy and exploring the suggestions to the right.

Work with Rotary's literacy partners!

Rotary and the [International Reading Association \(IRA\)](#) partner to advance literacy opportunities in all corners of the world. Together, Rotarians and IRA members mentor students, provide books and educational tools, and support schools in local and international communities.



[Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club, Washington, USA, worked with the local IRA council](#) to provide reading materials and clothes for youth at an orphanage in Juba, South Sudan. The two groups continue to work together to sponsor educational scholarships for girls at the orphanage. *Photo courtesy of Duk County Teacher Training Initiative.*



[The Rotary Club of Salem, Oregon, USA, worked with the Oregon's Vineyards Valley Reading Council](#) to create and distribute culturally-appropriate reading books to children in Santa Avelina, Guatemala, to promote early literacy in the indigenous language. *Photo courtesy of The Rockford Squire.*

Interested in working with a local IRA Reading Council? [Take this brief survey](#) and we can help you make a connection. Later in the year, Rotary clubs that are in the process of working with IRA Reading Councils on a joint project will have the opportunity to apply for a monetary award to

support their efforts.

Rotary clubs and the Dollywood Foundation's [Imagination Library](#) work together in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States to build literacy skills and foster a love for reading from an early age. More than 250 clubs work with local Imagination Library programs to provide a free monthly book to children from birth to five years of age.



The Dollywood Foundation has distributed more than 50 million books through the Imagination Library program! [Contact The Dollywood Foundation](#) for information establishing an Imagination Library program in your community.



The Literacy Rotarian Action Group assists clubs with planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating literacy initiatives by championing efforts such as Concentrated Learning Encounter (CLE) initiatives. As a result of many successful Rotary club CLE projects in the Philippines, the country's Department of Education has institutionalized the learning methodology in schools in the Philippines. Contact the group for assistance with a literacy

initiative.

Best regards,

Ellina Kushnir
Coordinator, Rotary Service Connections
RI Programs
rotary.service@rotary.org
+1.847.866.4487

Literacy Resources

Consult [Rotary's Areas of Focus](#) publication for an introduction to Rotary's focus on basic education and literacy, project ideas, tips for success, and guidelines for qualifying for a Rotary global grant.

Use Rotary's [Literacy Project Guide](#) to find ideas for a new literacy project.

Reach out to organizations and institutions like libraries, schools, learning centers, tutoring and mentoring programs, and community groups to learn about the needs of your community. Consider using [Community Assessment Tools](#) to discover the best ways to improve literacy in your community.

Request assistance for a literacy project or support an existing club-led literacy effort on ideas.rotary.org.

Share your literacy project successes on [Rotary Showcase](#) and learn about projects that Rotary clubs have undertaken around the world.

ONE ROTARY CENTER
1560 SHERMAN AVENUE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201-3698 USA
ROTARY.ORG