

# ROTARY LITERACY PROJECTS

Snapshot of  
District 5960  
Literacy Projects



**SERVE TO  
CHANGE LIVES**

# DICTIONARY PROJECT

*North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Foundation,  
Barron County Sunrise, Anoka, Greater Rochester,  
Blaine Ham Lake, Winona, and Rice Lake Rotary  
Clubs*

These clubs coordinate with school districts to provide dictionaries to every 3rd Grader in their area school districts. Several clubs also do fun activities with the kids, from Four Way Test activities to engaging challenges to find words in their new dictionaries.

sonya.czerepak@gmail.com, gary8455@msn.com,  
denisekelly1925@gmail.com, rod.s.baker@gmail.com,  
davesonja@gmail.com



## LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

*Arden Hills -Shoreview Rotary Club*

The club will build and install five little free libraries. Working with the local librarian, the club will fill the little free libraries with books for children written by authors from around the world as part of the Read in Color project. Rotarians will continue to monitor and maintain the libraries for a year.

Anoop Mathur, [anoopmathur@icloud.com](mailto:anoopmathur@icloud.com)

# MY BOOK DAY

*Rochester Risers Rotary Club*

Working with Rochester Public Schools, Rochester Risers identify 3-5 elementary schools within the district where the reading to grade level gap is significant with first graders. Those first grade classrooms are given books and taken to the public library to learn about the many things offered there and to build lifelong readers.

Rochester Risers Rotary Club

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## KINDERGARTEN BOOKS

*Prior Lake Rotary Club*

Funds were donated to Prior Lake Savage Area Schools to provide every incoming kindergartner with a book called "Mrs. Bindergarten goes to Kindergarten."

drcshepard@gmail.com, Jared@pccustomtees.com,  
tammy.higgins@rbc.com

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## READ IN COLOR

*Prior Lake Rotary Club*

The club purchases "Read In Color" books for the 10 Little Free Libraries that the Prior Lake club previously built and installed throughout the community.

drcshepard@gmail.com, Jared@pccustomtees.com,  
tammy.higgins@rbc.com

# STRIVE MENTORING

*Stillwater Rotary*

STRIVE Mentoring connects caring community adults with students in the high school who will benefit from the investment of time, energy and interest of the mentoring adult.

Brent Voight, [brentv@usfamily.net](mailto:brentv@usfamily.net)

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## AREA LEARNING CENTER BOAT BUILDING

*Stillwater Rotary*

With the club serving as the organizing force behind the project and Urban Boat Builders serving as the “instructors,” students enrolled in the Area Learning Center at the high school are provided the opportunity to build a canoe, kayak and paddles on site at the school under direction of Urban Boat Builders. The school provides students credits in English and Math for completing the project.

Mary Parcheta, [maryparcheta@gmail.com](mailto:maryparcheta@gmail.com)

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## READING AND MEDIA CENTER PROJECT

*Stillwater Rotary*

SSR works with the school district to provide volunteer assistance in the Media Center as well as working one-on-one with students in Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade on their reading skills. The program places volunteers in each school two mornings each week.

David Waldschmidt, [dwaldsch42@gmail.com](mailto:dwaldsch42@gmail.com)

# ROTARY READERS

*Rotary Club of Winona*

Each school year, club members volunteer to go to classrooms to read books to children and then leave the books in the classroom for later use. Volunteers make arrangements with teachers for the time and day of their monthly visit. The books are purchased by the club and labeled as a gift.

Katrice Sisson, [ksisson@winonahealth.org](mailto:ksisson@winonahealth.org)

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## CHISAGO LAKES EARLY LITERACY PROJECT

*Chisago Lakes Rotary*

The club participates in a coalition focused on positively impacting early literacy through resources supporting early literacy skill building in children ages 0-5. Our mission is to connect caregivers with early literacy resources, professionals, and events to empower families to better prepare young children to read and love to learn. Our focus is to build collaborative, cross community initiatives focused on positively improving participation in early literacy resources across the Chisago Lakes Area. Initiatives since 2019 include (1) 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (2) Chisago Lakes Early Literacy Project Facebook Page (3) Storytime in the Park series (4) Early Literacy Skill Building Toolkit & Virtual Concert (5) Books Across Our Parks - Little Free Libraries

Greg Paine, [greg.paine@edwardjones.com](mailto:greg.paine@edwardjones.com)

# BOOKS FOR KINDERGARTNERS

*Owatonna Early Edition*

The club provides books for all kindergartners in Owatonna.

Scott and Susan Cody, [codws@charter.net](mailto:codws@charter.net)

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# JUMP START TO LITERACY

*Rotary Club of River Falls*

Jump Start, which River Falls Rotary supports financially, is a project created and led by Tony Pedriana. The organization's purpose is to put books in the households with children who are otherwise unlikely to be exposed to reading at the critical early ages.

Tony Pedriana, [anaped44@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anaped44@sbcglobal.net)

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# ROTARY READERS

*Rotary Club of River Falls*

Rotarians visit one of the River Falls Public elementary schools one time or more per week and read to students that have been identified as needing additional one-on-one reading time with an adult.

# W. ST. PAUL/ MENDOTA HEIGHTS ROTARY LITERACY PROJECT

*West St. Paul/ Mendota Heights Rotary Club*

Once a year the club identifies and recognizes an outstanding teacher or literacy leader in the community with a plaque.

Alan Ruvelson, aruvelson@msn.com

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## PROGRAM APPRECIATION

*West St Paul-Mendota Heights Rotary Club*

The Rotary club donates age appropriate books to local school libraries, recognizing the theme covered by guest speakers at weekly programs.

Alan Ruvelson, aruvelson@msn.com

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## GUATEMALA LITERACY PROJECT

*Rice Lake Rotary Club*

Provide financial support to the Guatemala Literacy Project, which provides books to classrooms, computers and computer training, teacher training, and financial support to low income high school students.

Claire Parrish, claireparrish@ricelakegov.org