



Rotary International and the International Reading Association present

EVERY SCHOOL A STAR

A literacy tool kit



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL®



Contents

Introduction	ii
Who We Are	ii
International Reading Association	ii
Rotary International	ii
Working Together: Reading Councils and Rotary Clubs	1
Identifying Your Schools' Needs	2
Questions for students, parents, teachers, and school administrators	
Teachers' Wish List	5
Literacy Projects	6
Donations/funding	6
Education/awareness	8
Literacy events/celebrations	11
Volunteers/mentors	12
Including literacy in Rotary service projects	14
Additional Literacy Resources	15

Introduction

UNESCO estimates that nearly 800 million people worldwide over the age of 15 lack even basic reading and writing skills. Furthermore, over 64 percent of all illiterate people in the world are women and children — a figure that has remained essentially unchanged since 1990.

Rotary International and the International Reading Association are determined to reduce these statistics. By combining resources and skills, Rotarians and IRA members are making it possible for children everywhere to pick up a book and discover a world outside their own four walls.

The Every School a Star literacy kit is designed to help Rotary clubs and reading councils select and implement projects that meet the literacy needs of schools in their communities and around the world. You'll find examples of successful literacy projects along with contact information, resources, and service opportunities. You'll also find tools, such as questionnaires and a teachers' wish list, to help you determine the right project for your community.

Whether it's volunteering your time, providing financial support, or building awareness of literacy's importance, schools need your support and involvement. What's more, literacy projects are affordable, attainable, and successful. Working together, Rotarians and IRA members can make their school a shining star.

Who We Are

The **International Reading Association** is a community of reading professionals with over 350,000 members and affiliates in nearly 100 countries including 90,000 members in United States IRA councils. The IRA is committed to promoting higher achievement levels in literacy, reading, and communication by continually advancing the quality of instruction worldwide.

Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas.

Recognizing the important role literacy plays in improving lives and empowering people, Rotary's leaders are committed to supporting literacy and education initiatives. Rotary's **Literacy Resource Group** encourages clubs and districts to pursue programs and projects that promote universal literacy and educational opportunities for all.

Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses and partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

Working Together: Reading Councils and Rotary Clubs

The IRA and RI have been working together to improve literacy worldwide since 2002. To find support for your local literacy efforts, Rotary clubs should contact their local International Reading Association council (in North America) or affiliate (international).

You may also contact IRA headquarters at:

International Reading Association

800 Barksdale Road

P.O. Box 8139

Newark, DE 19714-8139 USA

Phone 302-731-1600

Fax 302-731-1057

irarotary@reading.org

www.ira.org

Local reading councils are encouraged to seek support for their projects from area Rotary clubs. To find a club in your community, use the Club Locator on the RI Web site or search for individual club Web sites at www.rotary.org/support/websites/search.html. Rotary clubs can also be found in telephone directories and on local chamber of commerce Web sites.

Once you have identified a Rotary club in your community, contact the club president or secretary to ask if their club would be interested in supporting your project. Rotary clubs often invite

speakers to their weekly meetings, which are an ideal opportunity to generate interest among local Rotarians. Ask if you can address the group. In addition, you may wish to:

- Invite Rotary club members to visit a project site
- Invite club members to address your organization
- Provide informational material for Rotary club members
- Prepare an article for the club bulletin

Find additional information on developing a relationship with Rotary at “Rotary International and Other Organizations” on the RI Web site. You may also contact RI headquarters at:

Rotary International

One Rotary Center

1560 Sherman Avenue

Evanston, IL 60201-3698 USA

Phone 847-866-3000

Fax 847-866-6116

programs@rotary.org

www.rotary.org

Identifying Your Schools' Needs

Determining the needs and resources of schools in your community is an important starting point for any school-based service project. A thorough needs assessment not only helps you identify the best project but, by including students, parents, teachers, and administrators in the process, also ensures support for your endeavors.

To help you determine the strengths and weaknesses of your schools, we've compiled a list of questions for you to ask your schools' stakeholders. These are only suggestions; you may wish to ask additional questions or adapt these questions to fit the needs of your local community. Find more ideas for carrying out school needs assessments in the Rotary publication *Community Assessment Tools* at www.rotary.org.

Background

Questions for students

- How old are you?
- What languages do you speak?
- How often do you and your teachers work together? once a day? once a week?
- What is your favorite school event?
- Are you involved in the student government at your school?

Questions for parents

- How often do you meet with your child's teachers?
- How often do you receive communication from your child's school? In what language(s) do you receive the communication?
- What is the primary language spoken at home?
- What are the most important school events for you and your child during the academic year?
- Are you involved in your school's parent-teacher organization?
- Do you volunteer in your child's classroom? If yes, what volunteer activities are you involved in? How much time do you spend volunteering at the school?

Questions for teachers

- What is your average class size?
- What is the average ratio of female to male students in your classes?
- What is the average age of your students?
- What is the average reading level of your students?
- What languages do you use in your classroom?
- Do you have students with special needs? What is the percentage of students with special needs in your classroom?

- On average, how much time do you spend working with individual students?
- Does anyone assist you in your classroom such as a volunteer tutor, teacher's aide, or student teacher?
- How often do you communicate with the parents of your students?
- How do you communicate with parents and students?
- How do you involve parents in the classroom?
- What are the most important events for you and your students during the academic year?
- In what ways are parents and students involved in decision making at your school?
- How could parents and students help improve your school?

Questions for administrators

- How many students attend your school?
- How many of your students are male and how many are female?
- What is the average class size in your school?
- What languages are used by students, teachers, and parents in your school?
- What percentage of your students are considered low income?
- What is the average reading level of students in your school?
- How are parents involved in school activities?
- How are your students evaluated academically?
- Have you ever conducted a needs assessment for your school? If so, can you provide a summary of the results?
- What are the most important school events during the academic year?
- On average, how many students successfully complete the school year?
- What are the most common reasons why students at your school do not complete the school year?
- How do you involve students, parents, and teachers in decision making at your school?
- How do you communicate with parents?
- Does your school have a parent-teacher organization?
- How can parents and students help improve your school?

School environment

Questions for students, parents, teachers, and administrators

- What do you like most about your school? Why do you like these things?
- If you could change something about your school, what would you change and why?
- Is your school building in good condition?
- Are the school grounds attractive and neat?
- How are you involved in improving your school's environment?
- In your opinion, are students safe at your school? If not, what would make your school safer?

School and classroom resources

Questions for students

- Do you have your own books in class?
- What books do you use in your classes?
- What books do you enjoy reading the most? Why do you enjoy them?
- Do you ever use computers in your classes? If yes, how do you use them?
- Do you have enough pens, pencils, and paper for class?
- What school supplies do you wish you had that you don't?
- Do you ever use your school library? If yes, what do you do there?
- What item or items do you wish your classroom or library had? Why?

Questions for parents

- What books do you enjoy reading to your children? Why do you like these books?
- Does your child use computers at school? If so, how are they used?
- Does your child use a computer at home to help with schoolwork?
- Does your child have his/her own school books or are books shared with other students?
- If you could add something to improve your child's classroom or school library, what would you add and why?
- How do you feel about volunteers helping students in your child's classroom?
- In an average year, how much money do you spend on school materials for your child?

Questions for teachers

- Are there any teaching materials you need for your classes? If yes, what are they and how would they enhance your ability to educate students?
- What multimedia resources, such as computers, televisions, and overhead projectors, are available for use in your classroom?
- Have you received special training for using multimedia resources in your classroom?
- Do all of your students have the classroom materials they need to be successful, including pens, pencils, notebooks, rulers, and calculators? If not, what classroom materials do your students need the most?
- What books do you use in your classroom?
- Do all of your students have books? If not, what books do your students need?
- Would you like to have volunteers assist you in the classroom?
- What professional development opportunities would be most helpful?
- How could your school library be improved?

Questions for administrators

- What resources are currently provided for students and teachers at your school?
- What additional resources do students and teachers need to be successful in your school?
- What types of professional development opportunities are available to teachers at your school?
- How would you feel about volunteers assisting your teachers in the classroom?
- Does your school have any administrative needs like office supplies, volunteer staffing, or office equipment?

Curriculum and instruction

Questions for students

- Which of your school subjects do you enjoy the most? Why do you enjoy these subjects?
- What could be done to make learning more enjoyable?
- Do you receive extra tutoring?

Questions for parents

- How do you assist your child with his/her school work?
- Are there any subjects that you find particularly important for your child to learn? Why are these subjects important?
- Does your child receive any extra tutoring? If so, who provides the tutoring?
- Are there any additional subjects you would like your child to learn at school?

Questions for teachers

- What do you do to make sure your teaching methods are current?
- How are you involved in deciding class curriculum?
- How do you decide which instructional materials to use for your classes?
- How could student learning opportunities be enhanced at your school?
- What are the biggest challenges you face as a teacher?
- How do you overcome these challenges?
- Is there any additional support that could be provided to help you and your students succeed?
- What support do you receive from your school for classroom instruction?

Questions for administrators

- How do you assist teachers in developing their curriculum?
- Does your school have a tutoring program?
- What curriculum standards are teachers expected to meet at your school?
- How are students and teachers evaluated at your school?

Extracurricular and after-school activities

Questions for students

- Are you involved in any after-school activities? What are they?
- What after-school activities would you like to be involved in?
- Would you be interested in helping others in your community through a service club?

Questions for parents

- What after-school activities would you like to see at your child's school?
- Does your school offer any tutoring programs?
- Would you allow your child to participate in extracurricular activities at the school?
- How could you support extracurricular activities at your child's school?

Questions for teachers

- Do you work with any extracurricular student groups?
- How could your school community better support these groups?
- Does your school offer volunteer opportunities for students and their parents?
- What types of extracurricular activities would you most like to see at your school?

Questions for administrators

- What types of extracurricular activities occur at your school?
- How does your school support extracurricular activities?
- What extracurricular activities would you most like to see at your school?

Teachers' Wish List

We asked teachers and school administrators around the world to tell us what materials and services would make their school a literacy star. Here's a roundup of their wishes. (Categories correspond to the literacy project groupings in the next section.)

Donations/funding

- Books (used and new)
- Classroom supplies
 - Headphones for listening centers and computers
 - Books on tape (especially valuable for non-native English speakers)
 - Games such as Scrabble Junior and Memory
 - Sturdy plastic containers to store classroom books
 - Dry-erase boards, markers, and erasers
 - Magnetic alphabet sets
 - Magna Doodle®
 - Audio/video equipment and CDs/DVDs to record students reading
- Gift certificates (to purchase books for the classroom library and thank-you gifts for volunteers)
- Literacy kits to send home that include:
 - Tape recorder
 - Books on tape and books (in native languages, too, to promote parent-child conversation)
 - Information for parents
- Thank-you gifts for literacy volunteers

Education/awareness

- Develop a writers program
- Sponsor family literacy activities
- Sponsor professional development for teachers
- Support school book clubs

Literacy events/celebrations

- Organize service-learning opportunities for youth
- Sponsor community literacy events

Volunteers/mentors

- Volunteer readers
- Volunteer story transcribers

The following groups provided examples for the list:

- Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences, Falls Church, Virginia, USA
- Early Childhood Education Center, Indiana University Kokomo, USA
- Edahow Elementary School, Pocatello, Idaho, USA
- Onekawa School, New Zealand
- University of Swaziland

Literacy Projects

To help you find a project that meets your schools' needs and volunteers' resources and interests, we've divided the literacy projects into the categories listed below. However, most projects are a mix of several categories, which gives club and council members the opportunity to work on the part of the project that matches their individual skills and interests. As you review them, keep in mind the unique needs of your community and school and adapt the projects accordingly.

A section explaining how clubs can include a literacy element in any service project follows the project categories.

Donations/funding

From donating dictionaries to adopting schools, the following projects offer Rotarians and IRA members the opportunity to support literacy through financial and in-kind donations. Rotarians can also help purchase school uniforms, donate small gifts for teachers to give to volunteers, and sponsor scholarships for higher learning.

1. Adopt-a-School

Rotary Club of Denver Southeast, Colorado, USA

When a Rotary club adopts a school, it demonstrates the club's commitment to the community and its children. Projects can be as small as volunteering in the classroom or as large as creating outdoor learning centers, sponsoring scholarships, or building schools in remote areas of the world.

In 1999, the Denver Southeast Rotary club, together with the Colorado "I Have a Dream"® Foundation, adopted a fourth-grade class at one of the lowest-performing schools in its community. Club members mentor students throughout the school year and have pledged to continue the relationship for 10 years to encourage students to graduate from high school. Upon graduation, program participants will receive \$2,200 per year from the foundation to apply to higher education.

Contact

Mary Hanewall
Executive Director, Colorado "I Have a Dream"® Foundation
Phone 303-861-5005
www.cihadf.org

Resources and service opportunities

Guatemala Literacy Project

Rotary clubs of North America and Guatemala

An initiative that matches Rotary clubs in North America with needy schools in Guatemala to provide books, library materials, and computer labs to underprivileged children.
www.guatemalaliteracy.com

John Dau Sudan Foundation

John Dau was one of the Sudanese "Lost Boys" featured in the award-winning 2006 documentary *God Grew Tired of Us*. Dau seeks to build schools and promote literacy in southern Sudan. The International Reading Association encourages IRA councils and invites Rotary clubs to support his efforts.
www.johndaufoundation.org

The Rose International Fund for Children

Rotary and Rotaract clubs of Bellevue, Washington, USA

This nonprofit organization, founded by Robert Rose of the Rotary Club of Bellevue, is devoted to helping children with disabilities living in Nepal. The Bellevue Rotary and Rotaract clubs, using Matching Grants from The Rotary Foundation, helped establish a library and recreation hall at the Kathmandu School for the Deaf.
www.trifc.org

SchoolBizMatch

Through the SchoolBizMatch Web-enabled initiative, businesses and other users can register to help meet specific school needs and have a real hand in community development.
www.schoolbizmatch.org

2. Book/school supply drives

Bookworm Angels

Rotary Club of Wilmette, Illinois, USA

According to the International Reading Association, "children who are allowed to self-select to read and have access to varied sources of print materials in their classrooms, school libraries, town libraries, and at home read more and read more widely, both for pleasure and for information." Unfortunately, not every school or town boasts a well-stocked library. By organizing book drives, Rotary clubs and reading councils are helping to change that.

In 1999, Kermit Myers of the Wilmette Rotary club founded Bookworm Angels, an organization that provides new and gently used books to classroom libraries in Chicago's inner-city schools. As of December 2006, the organization has donated more than 750,000 books to over 49,000 students in 83 schools.

Contact

Mindy Ferber
Associate Director, Bookworm Angels
Phone 773-332-8091
mferber@bookwormangels.org
<http://bookwormangels.org>

Resources and service opportunities

Choices Booklists, International Reading Association

Each year, thousands of children, young adults, teachers, and librarians select their favorite recently published books for the “Choices” booklists.

www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices.htm

Providing Books and Other Print Materials for Classroom and School Libraries

A position statement of the International Reading Association.

www.reading.org/downloads/positions/ps1039_libraries.pdf

Read to Grow Inc.

Learn how to organize a book drive in “The Book Drive Tool Kit,” available on this literacy organization’s Web site.

www.readtogrow.com

Ready 2 Read library project

Rotaract Club of Birmingham (Alabama, USA)

The Birmingham Rotaract club’s Ready 2 Read second-grade reading initiative hopes to provide high-quality classroom libraries to all 150 second-grade classrooms in the Birmingham City School System within three years. Find out how in the club’s executive summary.

<http://birminghamrotaract.com/Ready%202%20Read%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

Scholastic

Tips for building a classroom library from Scholastic books.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/newteacher/readers/archive/classroomlibrary.htm>

3. Dictionary projects

Rotary clubs of District 5160 (California, USA)

Dictionary projects are a popular way for Rotary clubs to promote literacy in their schools and communities. Dictionaries and thesauruses can be purchased directly from publishers or through sources such as the Dictionary Project (see below).

At the May 1998 Rotary District 5160 Conference, amid much fanfare and media coverage, three semitrailers arrived with almost 30,000 copies of the *American Heritage Children’s Dictionary* that the district purchased. More than 700 Rotarians and friends from the district worked together to affix labels to the books, identifying the dictionaries as a Rotary club project. The clubs distributed books to every third grader in the district.

One year later, one-third of the Rotary clubs decided to adopt the project as an annual club project.

Contacts

Candy Pierce

Past District 5160 Governor

candy@rotary5160.org

John Bernardin

Coordinator, District 5160 Literacy Resource Group

Phone 866-880-5160

jbernardin@msn.com

Resources and service opportunities

The Dictionary Project

This organization, created to give dictionaries to students to help with their homework and schoolwork, estimates that it ships about 50 percent of its dictionaries to Rotary clubs.

www.dictionaryproject.org/get_involved.html

The USA Dictionary Project

Rotary Club of Colorado Springs InterQuest, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

The project site provides model letters, order forms, presentations, and a peek into the dictionaries.

www.usadictionaryproject.org

4. International book donations

Project Libros

Rotary clubs of Boise, Boise Sunrise, and Idaho Falls, Idaho, USA, and District 4400 (Guayaquil, Ecuador) Idaho Council of the International Reading Association

Project Libros is bringing the joy of reading to underserved schools in Santa Marta and other isolated communities in Ecuador. Rotary clubs and reading councils in Idaho and Guayaquil, Ecuador, are donating money and Spanish-language books to the effort. Project Libros plans to establish school- and community-based mini-libraries, along with a mobile library, in Santa Marta.

Contacts

Pam Ward

Idaho Council of the International Reading Association

wardpa@d25.k12.id.us

www.idahoreads.org

Bev Pressman

Idaho Council of the International Reading Association

pressman@intergate.com

Resources and service opportunities

Better World Books

A U.S.-based literacy organization that collects and distributes books around the world.

www.betterworldbooks.com

Books for Africa

A not-for-profit organization, based in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, that collects, sorts, ships, and distributes books to children in Africa. Rotary clubs, working in partnership with Books for Africa, send books to clubs in Africa that distribute them to needy schools and libraries.

www.booksforafrica.org

CODE/Project Love

A Canadian-based program that organizes the shipping of much-needed classroom supplies to students and teachers in developing countries.

www.codecan.org/projectlove

5. Mobile libraries

Rotary Club of Stratford, Ontario, Canada

Even the best library is of little use if its patrons can't reach it. For children living in underserved areas of the world — where a library is either too far away or nonexistent — a mobile library helps bring the magic of books to them.

The Rotary Club of Stratford supports the Public Library on Wheels initiative of the Stratford Public Library. The club donated C\$20,000 to purchase a van that takes library books and programs into areas of the community not supported by a local library.

Contact

Sharon Malvern
Chair, Literacy Project
<http://rotarystratford.com>

Resources and service opportunities

Australian Mobile Libraries

This Australian-based Web site offers information about creating a mobile library.
www.mobilelibraries.com.au

Guatemala Mobile Library

“Changing Guatemala One Book at a Time”

A centennial literacy project of Rotary District 5050 (part of British Columbia, Canada).
www.clubrunner.ca/dprg/dxprogramhome/_programhome.aspx?did=5050&pageid=1782&sid=2569

Mobile Toy Library

Playing with toys stimulates the brain development that supports literacy. With the cooperation of Pujit Rupani Trust, the Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown, India, brings a mobile toy library every month to 100 slums. The club also sponsors a mobile library and doll museum.
www.rotary3060dolls.org

Contact

Judy MacDonald
Director, Media and Instructional Technology
Poudre School District
Phone 808-490-3630
judym@psdschools.org
www.rotary5440.org/fortcollinsco/RotaryRead/#trshps

Resources and service opportunities

Authors and Illustrators Who Visit Schools™

A directory of children's book authors and illustrators who visit schools.
www.authorsillustrators.com

Changing Education through the Arts

A school reform effort of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts that helps teachers impact student learning through arts-integrated instruction.
www.kennedy-center.org/education/ceta/home.html

Make It Happen: Awesome Author and Illustrator Visits

Find tips for organizing a successful author visit at Education World's online resource for teachers.
www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr374.shtml

2. At-risk children

Every Child Ready to Read
Rotary Club of Union City, Tennessee, USA

As their child's first teacher, parents play a critical role in helping to prepare their sons and daughters for success as readers. Yet, parents of at-risk children often lack the necessary skills to assume this responsibility.

The Union City Rotary club oversees the Promethean Foundation, which helps preschool children attend high-quality day care centers in Obion County, Tennessee. In 2007, the foundation hosted the Every Child Ready to Read program, a joint project of the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children, divisions of the American Library Association. The program provides public libraries with the necessary materials to host parent and caregiver workshops that encourage involvement in their child's educational development.

Contact

Every Child Ready to Read
Toll-free 800-545-2433, ext. 5752
pla@ala.org
www.ala.org/ala/alsc/ECRR/ECRRHomePage.htm

Resources and service opportunities

First Book

A national nonprofit organization with a single mission: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new book.
www.firstbook.org

International Reading Association

Find parent brochures, booklets, and videos on the IRA Web site.
www.reading.org/resources/tools/parent.html

Education/awareness

The following projects help raise awareness of literacy's importance, provide educational opportunities for learning, and encourage family involvement in promoting reading and writing.

1. Artist/author visits and workshops

Rotary READ Fort Collins
Rotary clubs of Fort Worth, Texas, USA

Research on the developing brain shows many positive links between an arts education and the ability to read and write. Sponsoring visiting authors or artist workshops can complement a school's efforts to use arts to influence literacy.

Since 1995, the Rotary clubs of Fort Worth have hosted author visits at elementary schools and public libraries in the Fort Collins area. Many authors also host young writer workshops if requested by the school.

The Reading Connection

Coordinates literacy programs in 13 shelters in and near Washington, D.C. Through read-aloud programs, parent workshops, and book donations, the organization strives to increase literacy among homeless children and bridge the educational gap these children often face.

www.thereadingconnection.org

Read to Me International

Encourages incarcerated parents to read to their children through its prison literacy project. Inmates select age-appropriate children's stories and make a tape recording as they read aloud. The books and tapes are sent to their children along with a handwritten message inside the book cover.

www.readtomeintl.org

Reach Out and Read

A national pediatric early literacy program that incorporates literacy into standard primary pediatric care.

www.reachoutandread.org

Read to Grow Inc.

Through its Books for Babies program, this Connecticut, USA-based nonprofit literacy organization strives to give children a good start in life.

www.readtogrow.com/programs/booksforbabies.htm

Read to Me International

Hawaii, USA-based organization that promotes reading aloud to children. Its Books for Babies program distributes literacy packets to new parents.

www.readtomeintl.org/index.cfm

3. Books for newborns

Babies Love Books

Rotary Club of Auburn, Alabama, USA

Many communities have successful programs that deliver books to new parents in hospitals or shelters. The Babies Love Books project of the Auburn Rotary club is one example. Their goal is to help parents understand the importance of reading to their children and build a firm foundation for a lifelong love of reading.

The club provides parents of every newborn at the East Alabama Medical Center with a packet that includes a children's book, a bookmark stressing the importance of reading aloud to your child, and local library information. The club also donates children's books, in English and Spanish, to the hospital's pediatric library.

Contact

Rotary Club of Auburn

www.auburnrotaryclub.com/service/centennial.htm

Resources and service opportunities

Books for Babies/Friends of Libraries USA

A national literacy program offered by the Friends of Libraries USA.

www.folusa.org/outreach/books-for-babies.php

Born to Read: How to Raise a Reader

A program of the Association for Library Service to Children, the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of service to children in all types of libraries.

www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/borntoread/bornread.htm

Imagination Library

The book gift program, launched by country music star Dolly Parton, provides one free hardcover book per month by mail to registered children from birth to the age of five. The program is currently in 40 states and 500 communities with Rotary clubs as major supporters.

www.imaginationlibrary.com

4. BrainWise

Rotary Club of Denver Mile High, Colorado, USA

BrainWise is a proven, evidence-based program that teaches children and adults valuable thinking skills to prevent and solve problems. Developed in the classroom, the BrainWise method uses innovative teaching techniques, a scripted curriculum, and classroom visuals to help people master a series of emotional, social, and cognitive skills.

In 2006-07, Rotary and BrainWise launched a pilot project in Villa Park, a Denver neighborhood with a high school graduation rate of 13.3 percent. Teachers were asked to teach BrainWise to second graders while Rotarians taught the program to the children's families after school. The project was so successful that the school is expanding BrainWise to the entire school.

Contacts

Pat Gorman Barry

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pgbarry@brainwise-plc.org

www.brainwise-plc.org

Patricia Fiske

Cochair, District 5450 Literacy Task Force

Rotary Club of Denver Mile High

Phone 303-660-8899

patricia@fiskes.us

Susan Kelly Henderson

Chair, Literacy Committee

Rotary Club of Denver Mile High

skelly5780@aol.com

5. Computer-Assisted Literacy Solution (CALs)

AutoSkill International Inc.

This literacy project uses an online, research-based program from AutoSkill International to improve reading and math skills in elementary, middle, and high school students and basic literacy skills in adults. It can be used anywhere access to high-speed, broadband-connected computers is available.

In 2006, a pilot project was launched in three Rotary districts — two in Canada and one in Australia — to test the effectiveness of CALs. In total, 161 students participated, assisted by 41 facilitators and three district coordinators. Evaluations from students and facilitators were extremely positive. Read the complete report: www.autoskill.com/pdf/rotary_pilot.pdf.

Contacts

Vince Walter

Rotary Club of Willowdale, Ontario, Canada
vcw@idirect.com

Peter Cleary

Director of Special Projects, AutoSkill International
Phone 613-287-0900, ext. 227
Toll-free 800-288-6754
peter.cleary@autoskill.com
www.autoskill.com/rotary

Resources

Rotary Zones 29 and 30 Literacy Resource Newsletter

Find out more about CALs in this newsletter report.
www.rizones29-30.net/literacy/downloads/ccalsinfo.pdf

6. Concentrated language encounter (CLE)

Rotary clubs of Swaziland
Swaziland Council of the International Reading Association
RI Literacy Resource Group

Concentrated language encounter (CLE) programs immerse students in new and increasingly more difficult activities with spoken and written language. As a result, students begin reading and writing during the first program lesson and progress rapidly to functional literacy. The RI Literacy Resource Group offers the Lighthouse Strategy to encourage the use of CLE programs throughout the developing world.

Swaziland Rotary clubs provide financial and technical support to the Swaziland Reading Association Council for its literacy professional development project that has trained hundreds of teachers in the CLE program. Rotary clubs have helped pay for meals, materials, manuals, and videos for teachers and donated books and Braille slates.

Contact

Rotary clubs of Malkerns Valley, Manzini,
and Mbabane, Swaziland
Virginia T. Dlamini
President, Swaziland Reading Association Council
P.O. Box 2205
Matsapha, Swaziland
virginiatsz@yahoo.com

Resources and service opportunities

Concentrated Language Encounter

This Web site offers extensive information about the CLE program as well as how to become involved in literacy projects in developing countries.

www.cleliteracy.org

Concentrated Language Encounter Fact Sheet

www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/serv_opp_cle_fact_sheet.pdf

7. English as a second language (ESL)

Rotary clubs of Sodo (Seattle) and West Seattle, Washington, USA
Southwest Youth and Family Services

Immigrant parents often rely on their children to translate materials into their native language. As a result, communication between the home and classroom and parental involvement in school activities can be severely limited. But English as a second language (ESL) programs can help.

The Rotary clubs of West Seattle and Sodo (Seattle) secured a District Simplified Grant of \$7,000 to purchase adult ESL teaching tools for Southwest Youth and Family Services. This nonprofit organization offers free classes for adults wanting to learn or improve their English reading and writing skills. Club members also volunteer to talk with the adult learners in English at the organization's family center.

Contacts

Marjorie Richard

ESL Coordinator, Southwest Youth and Family Services
Phone 206-937-7680
info@swyfs.org
www.swyfs.org

Jonathan Hankins

Rotary Club of West Seattle
jon@trillium.org

Resources

Audiobooks not only benefit budding readers but can also help immigrant families improve their understanding of English. The following Web sites offer information about using audiobooks in the classroom and at home along with a selection of books available for purchase:

Children's Audiobooks.com

www.childrensaudiobooks.com

The Audio Bookshelf Collection

www.audiobookshelf.com/teachwith.html

8. Readers Make Leaders Inc.

Rotary Club of Atlanta West End, Georgia, USA

Readers Make Leaders Inc. encourages urban teens to read by putting interesting reading material in their hands, creating enjoyable literary experiences, and empowering and recognizing youth leaders. The Rotary Club of Atlanta West End sponsors Readers Make Leaders in area schools.

Each year, Readers Make Leaders provides public school classrooms with a library of 50-100 books of interest to urban youth. Along with the books, the organization creates an inviting reading environment by donating bookcases, seating, and circulation materials.

The organization also provides scholarships for students to attend one-week leadership camps on college campuses through a partnership with 21st Century Leaders.

Contacts

Nina Packer

Board President, Readers Make Leaders Inc.

Phone 770-825-8945

info@readerslead.org

www.readerslead.org

Michael Mumper

Rotary Club of Atlanta West End

mmumper@bellsouth.net

Resources

21st Century Leaders

This nonprofit organization collaborates with business and education leaders to develop, inspire, and nurture students with leadership potential.

www.21stcenturyleaders.org

Junior Achievement

JA Worldwide® (Junior Achievement) is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.

www.ja.org

Contact

Dennis Stewart

Chair, The Four-Way Test Speech Contest

Phone 972-437-9548

dwestewart@comcast.net

www.rotary5810.org/html/4way_speech.html

Resources and service opportunities

Battle of the Books

A reading incentive program for students in grades 4-12.

www.battleofthebooks.org

Fort Collins Four-Way Test Discussion

Rotary Club of Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

The club has produced a video and booklet explaining how to introduce The Four-Way Test to students in your community.

Contact

Max E. Getts

Past District 5440 Governor

Phone 970-482-2566

maxgetts@msn.com

www.rotary5440.org/fortcollinsco/4waybrochure

Laws of Life Essay Contest

Rotary District 6900 (Georgia, USA)

A character education program, developed by the John Templeton Foundation, that invites young people to write from the heart about any topic they feel is important in life. Ed Outlaw of the Rotary Club of Peachtree City chairs the district-sponsored contest.

Contact

Ed Outlaw

Chair, District 6900 High School Essay Contest

outlaw@mindspring.com

www.georgialawsoflife.org

2. International Literacy Day/ RI Literacy Month

Rotary Club of Strongsville, Ohio, USA

Since 1965, when UNESCO designated 8 September as International Literacy Day, schools and other interested groups around the world have taken part in events to promote literacy. Rotary's Literacy Resource Group encourages Rotarians to celebrate International Literacy Day in cooperation with the International Reading Association, and support literacy projects during Rotary's Literacy Month in March.

The Rotary Club of Strongsville first commemorated International Literacy Day by sending club members to visit each third-grade classroom in the city and present personalized dictionaries to 700 third graders. For most of the children, this was their first dictionary.

Contacts

Scott Ross

Director of Communications and Public Relations,

Strongsville Public Schools

Phone 440-572-7026

ross@strongnet.org

Literacy events/celebrations

The following projects offer ways to spread the joy of reading through contests, literacy events, and teacher and volunteer recognition efforts. In addition to the projects listed below, clubs can help organize TV turnoff events, read-a-thons, and book clubs.

1. Four-Way Test Speech Contest

Rotary District 5810 (Texas, USA)

Contests are a great way to get students excited about reading and writing. In addition to winning prizes and recognition, participants gain self-confidence while improving their literacy skills. Whether it's a spelling bee, an essay contest, or a speech competition, Rotary clubs and reading councils can help make these events a success.

Rotary District 5810 (Texas, USA) sponsors the annual Four-Way Test Speech Contest for high school students. Students compete for cash prizes by delivering a speech on how they apply The Four-Way Text to their relationships with others. Club-level winners go on to compete in a regional contest.

Rotary Club of Strongsville
Phone 216-898-4242
Fax 216-267-9091
www.strongsvillerotary.org

Resources and service opportunities

The following organizations offer suggestions for celebrating International Literacy Day:

International Reading Association

www.reading.org/association/meetings/literacy_day.html

National Institute for Literacy

www.nifl.gov/nifl/literacy_day/ild_local.html

Rotary International

www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/rg07_literacy_celebrate_month.pdf

3. Read Across America Day

Rotary Club of Benton County, Tennessee, USA
Benton County Reading Council

The National Education Association launched the Read Across America program in 1997. The nationwide reading celebration takes place each year on 2 March, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. The NEA believes that Dr. Seuss's use of rhyme makes his books an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful.

The Benton County Rotary club helped its local reading council with the Read Across America project by purchasing Dr. Seuss books.

Contacts

Jenny Miller

President, Benton County Reading Council
jennymiller402@hotmail.com

National Education Association Read Across America
www.nea.org/readacross

4. Teacher recognition event

Rotary Club of Cedar Grove, New Jersey, USA

A teacher recognition program honors the significant role that teachers play in our children's education. Through involvement in these events, Rotary clubs and reading councils demonstrate their commitment to education and provide an opportunity for business leaders and professionals to build relationships with their community's schools.

The Cedar Grove Rotary club celebrated its 50th anniversary by hosting a special dinner to welcome new teachers to their community. Since 1957, the club has honored more than 1,000 new teachers.

Contact

Bob Pityo

Past District 7470 Governor
bbbipityo@aol.com

Volunteers/mentors

The following projects offer opportunities for Rotarians and IRA members to volunteer their time and talent to promoting literacy. In addition to these projects, Rotarians and IRA members can participate in summer reading programs, volunteer to make homework kits, and mentor students.

1. Career days/job shadow

Rotary Club of Emerald City (Seattle),
Washington, USA

To be successful in almost any profession, strong reading and writing skills are needed. One way to motivate students to acquire these skills is by getting them excited about the career choices available to them. As business and professional leaders, Rotary club members are the perfect choice to participate in career days and job shadow opportunities.

The Emerald City (Seattle) Rotary club has partnered with the University of Washington's Disabilities, Opportunities, Inter-networking, and Technology (DO-IT) program to encourage students with disabilities to seek challenging careers. Through workshops, students learn interviewing skills such as when to disclose a disability to a future employer, proper questions to ask during the interviewing process, and appropriate follow-up.

Contact

DO-IT

University of Washington

Phone 206-685-DOIT (3648)

Toll-free 888-972-DOIT (3648)

doit@u.washington.edu

www.washington.edu/doit

Resources and service opportunities

Career day

Rotary Club of Iowa City A.M., Iowa, USA

Each year, the club sponsors a career day for local high school business students. The event includes a business luncheon that teaches proper etiquette and workshops that offer sessions on résumé writing, interviewing techniques, and dressing for success.

Contact

Elaine Shalla

Secretary, Rotary Club of Iowa City A.M.

Phone 319-351-1946, ext. 110

Toll-free 800-777-1360, ext. 110

elaine@meachamtravel.com

www.icamrotary.org

2. Homework centers

Rotary Club of Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Homework can help children develop positive study skills and habits, improve their thinking and memory abilities, and encourage them to use time well, learn independently, and take responsibility for their work. But many at-risk students come from homes where parents are unable or unavailable to provide homework support. Rotary clubs and reading councils can help these students by providing centers where students have the necessary supplies and assistance to complete their homework.

The Nashville Rotary club is providing after-school help to students in the community through the Nashville Friendship Community Outreach Center. Members commit to one hour of one-on-one tutoring each week for periods of five weeks. The school system refers children to the center for after-school help. In addition to tutoring, the club provides computers and facility upkeep.

Contact

Suzanne Buchanan
Executive Director, Rotary Club of Nashville
suzanne@nashvillerotary.org
<http://nashvilletn.clubwizard.com/Projects.cfm>

Resources and service opportunities

Helping Your Child with Homework

Produced by the U.S. Department of Education and available in English and Spanish, this booklet helps parents understand the importance of homework and offers suggestions for helping children complete assignments successfully. Download the free booklet: www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework.

KidBibs International

KidBibs is a Web site devoted to bringing kids and books together. The site provides information and tools for strengthening reading success as well as resources to help children with their schoolwork.

<http://kidbibs.com/home.htm>

Tutor.com

Provides live online tutoring and homework help through its Web site.

www.tutor.com/libraries/default.aspx

3. Junior Great Books®

Rotaract Club of the University of Michigan, USA

Participation in Junior Great Books® helps students develop essential literacy skills — reading carefully, thinking critically, listening intently, and speaking and writing persuasively. By participating in “shared inquiry” discussion, Junior Great Books® students learn to read for meaning and to support their own interpretation of the text. Volunteers can take the training and lead groups in their local schools.

Members of the University of Michigan Rotaract club have led Junior Great Books® groups for second graders at a local elementary school. Junior Great Books® will send a resource kit to any Rotary clubs or reading councils that express interest in the program.

Contact

Tom Kerschner
National Director of Sales, Junior Great Books®
Toll-free 800-222-5870, ext. 255
tom.kerschner@greatbooks.org
www.greatbooks.org/programs-for-all-ages/junior.html

4. Rotary Readers

Rotary Club of Ahuriri (Napier), Hawkes Bay,
New Zealand
New Zealand Reading Association
(Hawkes Bay Literacy Association)

Teachers love volunteers to spend time in the classroom reading aloud to students and leading discussions about what they've read. The Rotary Readers program offers that and more. Schools participating in the program report improvement in children's literacy levels, oral language, vocabulary knowledge and use, and delight in books.

The Ahuriri (Napier) Rotary club and New Zealand Reading Association coordinate a Rotary Readers program. Rotarians help finance costs associated with the program, including purchasing books and training materials.

Contact

Program Coordinator, Rotary Readers
Rotary Club of Ahuriri (Napier)
www.ahuriri-rotary.org.nz

Resources and service opportunities

Reach Out and Read

A national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy by reading and giving books to children in pediatric clinics across the nation. Volunteers are needed to read to young patients in waiting rooms.

www.reachoutandread.org

Reading Buddies Program

Forges intergenerational connections through a volunteer mentoring program that matches inner-city students with elderly residents in Philadelphia.

www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionID=240&detail=245

Reading Seed Center

Rotary Club of Tucson, Arizona, USA

Coordinates over 1,000 volunteers who work one-on-one with children. The group maintains a library of age and reading skill appropriate books. Children also get to select a book to keep.

Contacts

Betty Kalil Knott
Executive Director, Reading Seed
Phone 520-798-0700
betty@readingseed.org
www.readingseed.org

Patty Anders

Professor, Department of Language, Reading, and Culture,
University of Arizona College of Education
http://coe.arizona.edu/pages/dep_lrc/index.php

5. Storytelling

Bringing Books to Life

Bringing books to life through acting, puppets, or other visual means is a great way to engage young readers as well as help second-language learners or those with reading disabilities understand a story. The Bringing Books to Life program of the Nashville Public Library provides literature-based performances that integrate literature with reading and math.

This free preschool literacy program centers on the library's award-winning, literature-based marionette shows and fosters reading readiness through programs for teachers, children, and their families. Bringing Books to Life emphasizes the importance of reading aloud to children and gives teachers, caregivers, and families the tools needed to read aloud effectively.

Contact

Elizabeth Atack

Program Coordinator, Bringing Books to Life

Phone 615-862-5773

www.library.nashville.org/services/ser_bookstolife.asp

2. Safe drinking water

Rotary Club of Panvel Industrial Town, Maharashtra, India

Providing books and classroom supplies isn't always enough. Schools in developing countries often lack such basic amenities as toilets and clean drinking water. Without them, students and teachers are susceptible to illnesses that make it difficult even to attend school.

The Rotary Club of Panvel Industrial Town initiated a World Community Service project that is providing potable water to a tribal school in Kolwadi-Pale Budruk. By installing a water purification system, along with a water stand and six taps, the club is ensuring that the school's 750 students and their teachers avoid contracting waterborne illnesses.

Contact

Rotary Club of Panvel Industrial Town

Including literacy in Rotary service projects

Almost any Rotary service project can be an opportunity to promote literacy. When Rotarians dig wells for clean water, they're making it possible for a young girl to spend time in the classroom rather than walking miles for water. When they include a book with medical supplies going to an underserved area of the world, they're helping to nourish the brain as well as the body.

Here are some other examples of Rotary service projects that include a literacy element:

1. Potato project

Rotary Club of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA

The Rotary Club of Shepherdstown has merged literacy with their food program. Club members and volunteers tuck a children's book, along with a CD and plush toy, inside every bag of potatoes they donate to local food banks, soup kitchens, shelters, church food pantries, and other agencies based in the eastern panhandle. The event has reached 4,000 families to date.

Contact

Rotary Club of Shepherdstown

www.shepherdstownrotary.org

Additional Literacy Resources

The following organizations provide information about literacy and numeracy skills and project resources but may reflect views different from those of Rotary International or the International Reading Association.

Rotary and Related Programs

Fellowship of Literacy Providers

Shares ideas, information, and techniques for improving literacy
www.literacyproviders.org

Rotary Foundation Educational Program Grants

Offer numerous opportunities for students, teachers, and Rotarians to study in other countries, including Ambassadorial Scholarships, Group Study Exchange, and the Rotary Centers for International Studies.

www.rotary.org/foundation/educational

Governmental Organizations

International Literacy Day

Raises awareness about literacy issues; observed on 8 September.
www.un.org/depts/dhl/literacy

National Institute for Literacy

Provides leadership on literacy issues, including the improvement of reading instruction for children, youth, and adults, and serves as a national resource on current, comprehensive literacy research, practice, and policy.

www.nifl.gov

UNESCO

Provides numerous resources for education projects worldwide, including literacy resources.

www.unesco.org/education

United Nations Girls Education Initiative

Works to narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education so that all children receive equal opportunities for education.

www.ungei.org

United Nations Literacy Decade 2003-12

Aims to extend literacy to those in the world who currently lack access to it.

www.unesco.org/education/litdecade

World Bank

Finances education programs around the world; Web portal provides information on current education trends and funding initiatives.

www.worldbank.org/education

Nongovernmental Organizations

Academy for Educational Development

Works to improve education resources worldwide.

www.aed.org/education

Communities for Public Education Reform

A coalition of grassroots education organizing groups backed by 40 local and national funders. Provides direct support to education groups, plus opportunities for the sharing of ideas and strategies. Currently available in Chicago, Denver, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, USA.

www.goodschoolspa.org/pdf/press_releases/051707%20CPEP%20Press%20Release.pdf

Education International

Provides links to a variety of education resources and information for starting education-related projects.

www.ei-ie.org

The Education Trust

Works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels, pre-K through college, and forever closing the achievement gaps that separate low-income students and students of color from other youth.

www2.edtrust.org/edtrust/about+the+ed+trust

Eldis Literacy Resource Guide

Provides peer-reviewed information on a number of development issues, including education and literacy.

www.eldis.org/education/literacy.htm

Literacy.org

Provides electronic resources and tools for the national and international youth and adult literacy communities.

www.literacyonline.org

World Links

Aims to improve educational outcomes, economic opportunities, and global understanding for youth through the use of information technology and new approaches to learning.

www.world-links.org