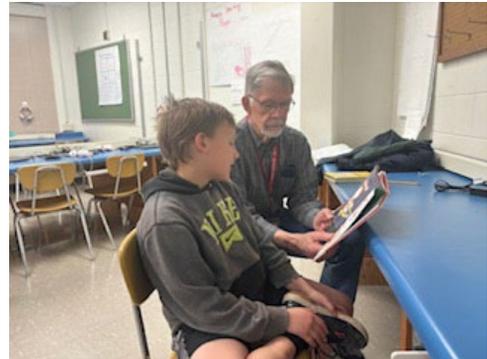


Is your Rotary club ready to start a Rotary Reader program?



Over two decades ago, the River Falls Rotary Club in River Falls, Wisconsin started their Rotary Reader program. It was the brainchild of then president, Tom Westerhaus, who worked closely with the reading specialist at Westside Elementary School, to establish a program where Rotarians would help students who may be struggling with their reading skills. Rotarians were asked to participate in a one-on-one reading program with students at Westside Elementary. Rotarians who volunteered were matched with a specific classroom teacher, and the teacher then would choose which students would benefit from additional reading help. The day of the week and times were mutually agreed upon by the teacher and Rotarian volunteer.

The program is appealing on several levels. The first, and most important, being the opportunity to improve the reading ability and comprehension of students. Students also benefit from the adult mentorship that the Rotarians provide. The time commitment is minimal – 30 minutes each week, usually reading individually with students for 15 minutes.



The River Falls Rotary also supports the reading program by purchasing a book for their Rotary Readers at the annual Book Fair at Westside. An end-of-year pizza party is held for the readers and Rotarians to celebrate a year of reading accomplishments.

Due to the success of the Rotary Reader program at Westside Elementary School, Rotarians are also now reading at Rocky Branch Elementary School and the River Falls Public Montessori Academy.

If your Rotary club is interested in this program, feel free to contact **Linda Yde**, President, River Falls Rotary Club, 715-523-1195.