

Rotary District 5960

Index of Literacy Projects

A Listing of Projects Sponsored by District Clubs

ROTARY READERS

Sponsoring Club: River Falls Rotary Club

Club/Project Lead: Linda Yde

Project Description:

Rotary Readers -- about 12 Rotarians go to local elementary schools on a weekly basis and read with students who need extra help and/or attention. One Rotarian reads at each elementary school (4 schools once a week). During the annual Book Drive at the flagship school, the Rotary Reader takes their student to the Book Fair to help them pick out a book which Rotary purchases for the student. There is an end-of-year pizza party which is held for the Rotary Readers and the students. Some of the Rotarians take this opportunity to give their reader an additional book as a gift. Some of the students bring thank you cards to the pizza party for their Rotary Reader.

At another elementary school, since the number of students is smaller, we celebrate with a Muffin and Juice breakfast for the Rotary Readers and their students. Each student is given a free book following the breakfast.

List your Community Partners:

Our community partners would be our four elementary schools -- Westside (where we started the Rotary Reading program), Greenwood, Rocky Branch and Montessori. The classroom teachers are very enthusiastic about our program, as well as the reading coordinators for each school.

Cost of Project:

The only cost is the book that we purchase for every Rotary Reader student at the annual Book Fair, and the end-of-the-year pizza party for the RR students. These are line items in our annual budget. Since the monetary amount is small, the Muffin & Juice breakfast is taken out of general funds.

Who does the project benefit:

1st grade through 3rd grade (6-8 years old)

Project Impact:

It is very hard to gauge the impact we are making by giving books to students and/or spending time helping them with their reading skills.

JUMP START TO LITERACY

Sponsoring Club: River Falls Rotary Club

Club/Project Lead: Linda Yde & Tony Pedriana

Project Description

List your Community Partners:

Cost of Project:

Who does the project benefit:

Project Impact:

JUMP START TO LITERACY

Sponsoring Club: River Falls Rotary Club

Club/Project Lead: Linda Yde

Project Description

Books are given away on a quarterly basis at the River Falls Public Library to children ages birth to five years. Books are also made available to the local food pantry so children can take a book when their parent is picking up food items.

List your Community Partners:

River Falls Public Library, WIC (Women, Infants & Children Program), River Falls Food Pantry

Cost of Project:

The cost of books is a budgeted item in our annual budget.

Who does the project benefit:

Birth to five years old

Project Impact:

Hard to measure our success. Hopefully, the parents read the books that are given to the children at the quarterly book giveaways.

TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Sponsoring Club: River Falls Rotary Club

Club/Project Lead: Linda Yde

Project Description

Each year in August, Tools for School is held at a local River Falls church. T4S is a school supply giveaway for students in the River Falls school district. The Tools for School organizers have allowed the RF Rotary Club to distribute a free book to every student who comes to the school supply giveaway. Books are offered for Pre-K through 12th grade students. In August, 2023, 315 books were distributed to students. This was our second year of participation, and we have been invited back for the 2024 T4S event.

List your Community Partners:

Tools for School Committee

Cost of Project:

We budget for these books in our budget as a line item.

Who does the project benefit:

Ages 2 through 18

Project Impact:

Really, there is no way of knowing. All we can hope for is that someday, an adult will come up to us and say, "Hey, thanks for giving me a book at Tools for School. I didn't think about it too much at the time, but it really started me on the path to becoming an avid reader. Now I read to my children as much as I can."

ROTARY READERS

Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Wabasha

Club/Project Lead: Cari McCann

Project Description

On the second Thursday of each month six Rotarians meet with kids in grades Pre-K - 6th at St. Felix Elementary school. The teachers for each grade assign "their" Rotarian to do a literacy project they need assistance with. It may be 1:1 buddy reading, or 2:1 shared reading where the Rotarian listens to two students read, it might be working on sight words with kids, it could be reading a book to the class or even running copies of books for students to take home with them. We are there from noon until one (our "normal" meeting time pre-COVID. On the fourth Thursday of the month we do this same thing at the local public school, Wabasha-Kellogg. The teachers know we will do whatever they would like us to do for that hour in order to assist in building literacy skills.

List your Community Partners:

St. Felix Elementary School and Wabasha Kellogg Public School.

Cost of Project:

None

Who does the project benefit:

3 years old through sixth grade at both schools.

Project Impact:

I ask the students, teachers, school administrators, and Rotarians for their thoughts on what worked, what didn't work, and how can we improve.

DICTIONARIES

Sponsoring Club: Lake Elmo Rotary Club

Club/Project Lead: Tammy Malmquist

Project Description

We distribute dictionaries to every third grader at our local elementary school

List your Community Partners:

Lake Elmo Bank

Cost of Project:

\$1,600.00

Who does the project benefit:

3rd graders

Project Impact:

The teachers have each student write us a thank you note expressing why they are excited to have their new book.

DICTIONARY PROJECT

Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Anoka

Club/Project Lead: Lynn Montgomery

Project Description

Our club collaborates with two other Rotary Clubs (Blaine/Ham Lake and Coon Rapids), three Lions Clubs (Dayton, Ramsey, Anoka) and two community partners (AHEF and Connexus Energy) to distribute 3200 student dictionaries to every third grade student in the Anoka-Hennepin District #11 and all of the private schools in the district area. The Anoka-Hennepin District serves fourteen cities in two counties.

List your Community Partners:

Anoka-Hennepin Educational Foundation, Anoka-Hennepin Retired Staff Association, Connexus Energy, Ramsey Lions, Dayton Lions, and several local banks.

Cost of Project:

Cost for the dictionaries is approximately \$11, 500.00 each year.

Who does the project benefit:

Third grade students (8 years old)

Project Impact:

Our team reviews/evaluates this project each year with the third-grade teachers, the district literacy team and our community partners. This project is shared with the community through district communications such as "Backpack Online" and the printed quarterly communication "In the Know", which is sent to 40,000 homes.

BIRTHDAY BAG BOOKS

Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Anoka

Club/Project Lead: Lynn Montgomery

Project Description

Our Birthday Bag program provides families who use the ACBC Food Shelf a special "birthday bag" with an age-appropriate book for toddlers, early readers, and elementary aged students along with a cake mix, frosting, candles, and party plates and napkins.

List your Community Partners:

ACBC Food Shelf

Cost of Project:

Who does the project benefit:

Ages 1-12 years

Project Impact:

DICTIONARY PROJECT

Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Greater Rochester

Club/Project Lead: Denise Kelly

Project Description

For 16 years, our Club has provided age-appropriate dictionaries to 3rd graders in the Rochester public and private schools. We may be adapting the project this year to provide a different type of book, such as a pocket atlas, to the 3rd graders.

List your Community Partners:

Elementary school media specialists are our liaisons with the public schools. We look for contributions from individuals and foundations to help with the costs.

Cost of Project:

We currently purchase soft cover books from The Dictionary Project: that cost is about \$6,500. Previously, we provided Scholastic hard cover dictionaries; the project at that time cost about \$18,000.

Who does the project benefit:

The students are 8 or 9 years old: we believe this project impacts their families as well.

Project Impact:

We have and will continue to survey 3rd grade parents, teachers and media specialists.

VESL **(Volunteers for Elementary School Literacy)**

Sponsoring Club: Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Club

Club/Project Lead: David Waldschmidt

Project Description

Stillwater Sunrise works with the Stillwater school district to provide leadership and ownership of a community volunteer program to benefit younger elementary grade students (primarily Kindergarten through 3rd Grade) as they learn to read and develop reading proficiency. The school district has the goal of bringing all students to grade level reading by the time they exit third grade. VESL volunteers work with teachers in six elementary schools to target students who need extra help. The program currently has approximately 50 community and Rotary volunteers. The work of the VESL volunteers is often 1:1 with students, but may also involve small groups including “book clubs” with the 2nd and 3rd graders. Volunteers may also provide classroom assist time with in-class literacy projects. The program has also recently expanded to helping students who speak Spanish as their primary language and are now learning to read in English.

List your Community Partners:

Stillwater School District and the six schools supported by the program. Any individual resident may apply to be a VESL volunteer. Christ Lutheran Church in Lake Elmo is supporting the program by providing volunteers for the Lake Elmo Elementary School.

Cost of Project:

All time is donated via volunteers. Currently, the program has no cost, however we are looking at the possibility of gifting students books at the end of the year for summer reading.

Who does the project benefit:

Kindergarten through third grade (5 to 10 years of age). The program also provides a valuable resource for teachers.

Project Impact:

Each year an evaluation survey tool is distributed to teachers and to volunteers. The results are compiled and shared with all who participated including school administration. Suggestions for the upcoming year are derived from these discussions.

CAP AGENCY LENDING and GIVING LIBRARY

Sponsoring Club: Prior Lake Rotary Club

Club/Project Lead: Julie Ammerman

Project Description

CAP Agency assists and empowers people to achieve social and economic well-being in partnership with our community. It runs the local Food Shelf, Crisis Nursery, Parenting Groups, kids summer programs among many other projects. Prior Lake Rotary decided to “feed the soul” with donating over 270 new multi-lingual books for babies to adults and other library items to the CAP programs specifically mentioned above. Children in crisis, for example could keep their books, while parenting groups would have a lending library where books were checked out and returned.

List your Community Partners:

CAP Agency Program Director, Scott County Library for book recommendations.

Cost of Project:

Prior lake Literacy Group donation of \$1,500.00 was matched by Prior Lake Community Service group. The total donation was \$3,000.00.

Who does the project benefit:

Babies through Adults

Project Impact:

CAP Agency presented an impact statement at our local Prior Lake Meeting.