



District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Buena Park Rotary Club

Project Title: Aids for Child Health/Literacy

☐ Progress Report ☒ Final Report

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?

Our Early Literacy Project had three aspects:

(1) **"Books and Bags for Moms and Babies"** - parenting medical advice resource book from American Academy of Pediatrics given to low- and middle-income Buena Park moms of newborns + bilingual Spanish/English baby board book, as well as information about local library and school resources and parenting tips about reading to newborns from birth, distributed at local hospitals, WIC program and MOMS OC office in a handmade cloth drawstring bag.

(2) **"Books to Grow on"** - Free age-appropriate books given out at Buena Park Library story times for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Importance of reading to children at early ages is emphasized by the Librarians, Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors as they model a love of reading while engaging with the children when handing out books.

(3) **"Supporting Local Low-Income area K students with books for their home libraries"** - Books ordered by teachers from Scholastic FACE (Family and Community Engagement) program and given out at two classrooms in the lowest-income schools of our two elementary school districts in Buena Park, for students to start and add to their own personal home libraries.

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?

13 Rotarians, 12 Rotaractors, 9 Interactors, 3 visiting Rotarians

3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

Ordered materials (fabric, stringing ribbon, thread), parent resource and baby board books, Rotary labels for book bags, local resources from school districts, board and paperback books for library story time participants and K students in classrooms; solicited partnership support from community organizations (Quilt Guild, BP Library, Centralia and Buena Park School Districts, BP Woman's Club, Scholastic, Inc., LA Times Reading by 9 program, local hospitals, MOM OC and WIC program sites); composed letters to parent book bag recipients and made copies of resource materials; met with Teachers and Librarians who would be partners to inform about grant goals; communicated with cooperating organizations and partners face-to-face and via e-mails regarding the grant project plans; accepted and inventoried shipments of books, coordinated and collated materials, ironed Rotary labels onto book bags, got materials ready for club meeting work parties; coordinated assembling workshops for club members, cooperating organization participation workshops, Library and classroom donation events, delivery of book bags to hospitals, WIC and MOM OC program sites; Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and community members worked side-by-side at Rotary meetings and other workshops to collate and assemble book bags, put Rotary donation labels into books, count out and pack book bags into boxes; Rotarians made several deliveries of book bags and donation books to hospitals, classrooms, and the Library at story times. Rotarians also read books to children on a once-monthly basis in classrooms to stress the importance of reading.

4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?

At least 280 families of Buena Park newborns are getting book bags with parent resource books, resource materials, and baby board books; 400+ preschoolers from at least 200+ families have received 635 age-appropriate board and paperback books at the Buena Park Library storytimes; 58 children in two K classrooms in two low-income schools have received 562 paperback books for their own home personal libraries.

5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?

Many siblings and other children who have been associated with these book bag and book recipients have also gained access to these donated books and resources, and have heard through interactions with Rotarians and Rotaractors about the importance of reading as a key skill for life-long success. Mothers of newborns have been coached to read the sections in their AAP Parent Medical Resource books about the importance of reading to their newborn from Day 1 and older siblings will also take part in reading to their newborn brother or sister, therefore modeling for them that reading is an admirable character trait which they can acquire, with help. Rotarians and Rotaractors have also modeled reading for preschoolers and Kindergarteners at the Library story times and classrooms, as well as speaking at assemblies in front of all elementary grade levels, and in even other classrooms of varying levels for Read for the Record in the fall and Read Across America in the spring.