



## District Grant Final Report 2018-2019

This report must be completed and uploaded on [matchinggrants.org](http://matchinggrants.org) within 30 days after completion of the project but no later than 2 years after the date of approval of the project.

District Grant #     P-2528    

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Rotary Club: Torrington Rotary Club

Project Title: Raising Writers (District Literacy Grant Project)

### Project Description:

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1. Briefly describe the project. What was done and where did the project activities take place? Explain how the beneficiaries and other community members were involved?

The Torrington Rotary Club developed a literacy project entitled Raising Writers. It involved researching the benefits of journaling, ordering journals, and Rotary pens for distribution to all Goshen County sixth graders. It turned out that involved a total of 176 students. When the journals and pens arrived, a call out for volunteers to visit the schools was sent via email in Club Runner. Eleven volunteers were enlisted to help. The Literacy Chair prepared labels for placement on the inside of the journals and a handout containing tips for journaling and the four-way test. At the presentations to the students, principals, counselors, and teachers were involved. For example, the writing teacher at Torrington Middle School encouraged the students to journal as a way to handle problems and express their feelings. The counselors reinforced the activity. The Rotarians involved in the presentations took the opportunity to talk about Rotary and its goals and purpose. They explained the motto Service Above Self and discussed several of the humanitarian efforts of Rotary. The children were well behaved and respectful. They were excited to be the recipients of the journals and really cool LED Rotary Pens with styluses. The project was introduced at two different Rotary meetings and reported upon by the Literacy Chair.

2. How many Rotarians participated in this project?   12
3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

In addition to delivering the journals and pens, local Rotarians talked to the students about the importance of journaling as a lifelong coping tool, the four-way test, and international and local Rotary projects. Members touched on the polio vaccination efforts and clean water projects. At least one middle school student decided she wanted to do a history project on polio eradication and reached out

to local Rotarians for further information. She was also referred to Rotary International web site for more specific information.

4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project? 176 students

5. Who are the beneficiaries and what is the expected long-term community impact of this project?

The primary beneficiaries were the sixth-grade students who seemed excited and grateful for the gifts of the journals and pens. If students can form a lifelong habit of writing down their thoughts and ideas, it can prove to be a beneficial lifelong coping skill.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was their role?

Goshen County School district attendance center including secretaries, principals, teachers and counselors were involved in the scheduling and presentations. They cooperated fully with the visiting Rotarians and made them feel welcomed and respected.

7. Income:

Income Source	Amount
District Matching Grant	\$1000
Local Match	\$500
<b>Total Project Income</b>	<b>\$1500</b>

8. Expenditures: (number receipts starting with 1 and indicate a receipt # (s) for each expenditure) (Do not include travel expenses)

If international project convert amounts to US dollars	Receipt # (s)	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount
#1 Russel Hampton Stylus Pens with LED Light	1	539.50	559.41
#2 Amazon Journals	2	942.50	897.00
Labels and flyers donated by Literacy Chair			
<b>Total project expenditures</b>			<b>\$1456.41</b>

9. Please explain any variance of more than 5% between the budgeted amount and the actual amount including the reason for the variance and why the alternative was chosen.

10. Project score (5=strongly, 4=agree, 3= neutral, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree)

	Project Score	Comments
The overall project was successful	5	
The grant process worked well	5	
My interaction with partner clubs was good	5	
We achieved the results we expected	5	

11. Did you upload photos in your project on matchinggrants.org under the Photos tab? (If not, please do so)

yes

12. What worked well on this project and why?

Sixth graders were a good age group to target as most of them have just moved into a middle school or junior high environment. Adolescent children often have difficulties dealing with all of their new experiences or life circumstances. Emphasizing writing and journaling as a literacy project for this age group was appropriate and appreciated by the students and teachers.

13. What did not work well and how would you suggest improving it?

Having interactions with students is a worthwhile activity; however, it might be better to have a continued or ongoing presence with Rotarians and students getting to know each other better. Unfortunately, this would be a difficult thing to maintain because of the busy schedules of the students and Rotarians.

14. How was this project publicized?

Yes, a press release and photo of some of the Rotarian volunteers was sent to the Torrington Telegram. Due to student privacy concerns, we were not allowed to take pictures of the students. Additionally, information about the grant project was shared at several Torrington Rotary meetings.

### Project Inventory

Please list all items provided in this grant that are over \$75 in value and are not expendable.

Item Purchased	Date of Purchase	Cost	Destination/ Location	Comments
Rotary Pens	12/11/18	\$559.41	Torrington/ Goshen County	Distributed to sixth graders
Journals	12/11/18	\$897.00	Torrington/ Goshen County	Distributed to sixth graders

By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures are attached. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights to the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant the District, RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or in the future, through the District and the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or developed. This includes the right to modify the photographs as necessary in the District's and RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of the District, RI, and TRF.

**Please attach all receipts or an invoice and a copy of the check used to pay the invoice. Funds over \$100 not used must be returned to the district grants treasurer.**

Certifying signature of primary contact    Date: 1/23/19

Print name Dee Ludwig, Torrington Rotary Club Literacy Chair

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