

District Matching Grant, Final Report

May 6, 2024

Rotary Club of Santa Ana (club #853)

Project Title: P-4831 Books: Early Childhood Literacy

1. Briefly describe the project  
*We purchased 400 (specifically requested sets of) Scholastic Books to support reading development for students at Monte Vista Elementary School. Books were targeted to grades K-4.*
2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?  
*7 (all our active club members), plus one member's spouse. We did this at our regular meetings and at one member's home (he was injured and at the time couldn't make it to club meetings).*
3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples  
*- We sorted the books into two sets and then by reading age (purchase was 2 each of 200 titles) – while enjoying and being very impressed by the quality of the content and illustrations, and the great diversity of topics as well as cultures covered.  
- We also placed a sticker in each book, usually on the title page (without obscuring any important information), stating it is a gift from Rotary Club of Santa Ana. Thus we also get the word out about our club – its existence, and the good we do in the community.*
4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?  
*320 students in this reading level age range at Monte Vista elementary school, while the books were circulated among the various classrooms.  
An additional benefit is the students will be given the books to take home to keep at the end of the school year, so their other family members / household members will also get to share the books, thus increasing the number of people positively impacted.  
We are very pleased at this addition (sending them home) to our original program plan, as we know there is a strong correlation between books in the home and early childhood literacy.*
5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?  
*Supporting literacy has a positive impact not only on these direct recipients but they can also help siblings and even adult family members enhance their reading skills; plus their own enhanced literacy can benefit the family as the children will be able to better read instructions, help complete forms, etc.  
Literacy vastly enhances success in further education as well as eventual employment.*
6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?  
*SAUSD FACE (the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) group within Santa Ana Unified School District). We discussed with them our club's strong interest in literacy and helping young Santa Ana kids to thrive; and within our project budget they identified and gave very clear information so we could order these sets of books from Scholastic; they even come with bins for easy shifting / sharing among classrooms.*