

Drumright is up-dated on a Local Chamber Service Project

August 24, 2012

At Friday's Drumright Rotary Club meeting, Rotarian, Shirley Klaus, introduced her guest, Greg Roberts. Greg talked about Drumright's Chamber of Commerce's Back to School Supplies Program. The Back to School Supplies Program began four years ago and was born out of an idea after Greg received half of a ruler, from a company, in Stillwater, soliciting area companies to sponsor rulers, for Stillwater's students.



Pictured L to R: Shirley Klaus, Greg Roberts

Agreeing with the concept but realizing that a greater need existed locally in Drumright, he gathered a few friends and asked if they would be interested in sponsoring a Drumright classroom. The response was overwhelming! The very first year enough money was collected to buy all the school supplies for Pre-K through 5th grade. This year, the Chamber of Commerce collected enough funds to purchase all of the school supplies for every child in Pre-K through 8th grade!

This program has many benefits. One benefit that motivates Greg to continue to volunteer so much time and energy is the even starting place for every student. Each student receives the exact same supplies as other students in that grade. "There is no stigma or income level requirements, just take your kids to school to learn," says Greg. It's a simple concept, but one that can mean the world of difference to a student.

Greg works with Drumright Schools and the Elementary Principal, Tara Osterhout, to coordinate different teacher's needs and to eliminate any waste. Of course, the teacher's are always willing to participate – knowing this program helps the kids to learn more effectively.

Greg has also been surprised by the generosity of complete strangers. In an effort to get the most out of every dollar spent, he and other volunteers will visit several stores following the different sales. Standing in line at a Tulsa store, Greg has received donations from people who do not have any ties to Drumright, but think the Back to School Supplies Program is a great cause.

This year, to purchase the required school supplies for Drumright students Pre-K through 8th grade cost almost \$4,500.00. This program removes a burden from parents that are struggling to make ends meet. Now the parents can focus their available funds towards other necessities for their children. This program also provides children with the knowledge that they are important, someone cares and wants to see them succeed.

Greg enjoys being involved in this project and hopes it continues on for many years to come. It's a lot of work, but to him and many, many others – it is worth it.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Amanda Levis and her guests the Drumright Band Boosters.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary.

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian