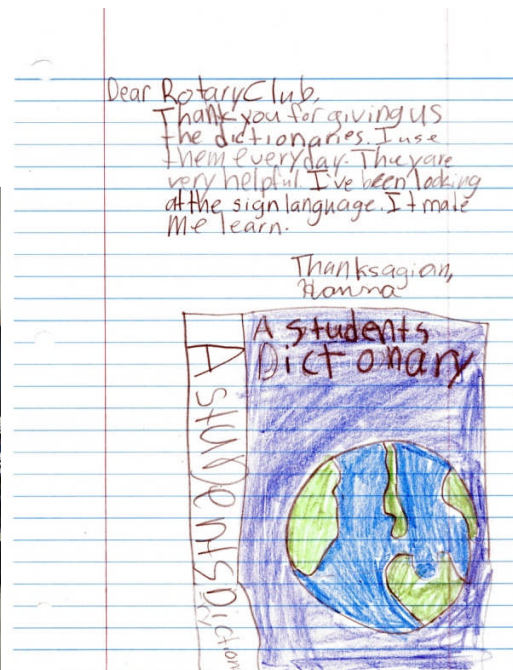




Rotary International has Impact on Local Literacy and Education

Founded on one man's idea over 100 years ago, the world's first volunteer service organization, Rotary International, today has over 1.2 million members, in more than 34,000 clubs, spanning over 200 countries world-wide. The organization has an incredible history of humanitarian accomplishments, including the near eradication of polio; by focusing on the principle of one person helping another in hopes that we all may live better lives. You don't have to look far to find evidence of Rotary International's dedication to "Service Above Self", the club's motto, than right here in Pryor, where the local Rotary Club is impacting the lives of so many with its participation and development of literacy and education projects.

Dictionary and Thesaurus Project: As part of a national literacy Rotary project, the Pryor Club began its Dictionary and Thesaurus Distribution Project in 2003. The project initially focused on distributing new dictionaries to 3rd grade students of Pryor Public Schools, however today, the project includes the distribution of new dictionaries to every 3rd grade student and a thesaurus to every 4th grade student attending public schools in Mayes County, which during this year's distribution included 1,270 students. The project is highly successful, as pictured below, the kids at Osage Public Schools are excited to proudly display their new books while others send illustrated letters of thanks.



Rotary Reads Project: Since November 2009, the Pryor Rotary Club began its "Rotary Reads Project", for the students at Jefferson Elementary, in Pryor. The project focuses on promoting children's interest in reading, by capturing their attention with someone other than a teacher, who comes to their classes and

entertains them by reading a story, while teaching them the importance of literacy and of service to others. The Pryor Club reads throughout the year to the kindergarten through 6th grade students at Jefferson, and it's easy to see how entertaining the stories can be, especially when readers sometimes show up in character as reflected in the pictures including Sheila Shelby, Rotary Reads Project Chair, and Bill Martin, current President of the Pryor Club during recent story reading sessions at the



school.

Book Dedication Project: As continued support of the Rotary Reads project, in August of 2011 the Pryor Rotary Club started its Book Dedication Project. Weekly, at Pryor Club meetings, guest speakers are invited to present to the club, educational and/or entertaining information regarding various activities and events as they relate to the Club members, the local community, and others. Historically, the Club would provide, as a gift of thanks to its guest speakers, coffee mugs, pens, or other items as a token of appreciation for their time in providing the weekly presentation. The Book Dedication Project replaces these gifts with a new book, purchased by the Pryor club, for Jefferson Elementary, in honor of each guest speaker, who signs the bookplate inside book cover, before it is contributed to the library at Jefferson. Picture below, Connie Melton, Jefferson Elementary Librarian, the Pryor Rotary Club's 255th guest speaker, was presented the first book after presenting information to the club regarding the success of the Rotary Reads project discussed previously.



College Scholarship Project: Since 1944, the Pryor Rotary Club has offered \$1,000 scholarships awarded to applicants from Pryor High School, and more recently, awards to applicants of Mayes County public schools outside of Pryor. Since its inception, the College Scholarship Project has awarded thousands to students of Pryor and other Mayes County public schools. The Pryor club hopes to offer applications online this year in hopes of reaching more deserving applicants and will begin accepting applications in the spring of 2012.

In summary, one person helping another can change the world and Rotary is one very great example. The Pryor Rotary group meets each Friday at noon at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 400 East Graham Avenue in Pryor and encourages its citizens to attend a meeting and consider the opportunity to become a Rotarian. Contact information can be found on their website at: <http://pryorrotary.wordpress.com/contact-us/> and like us on Facebook!